

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Spiritual awakening sweeps Cuba, Baptist visitors say

MIAMI (BP) — Hermes Soto watches the sobbing Cuban woman on the evening news.

The woman tells a reporter about a relative who drowned July 13 with about 40 other Cubans trying to flee the island in a stolen tugboat. About 30 Cubans survived.

Survivors claim Cuban authorities sank the craft by ramming it with their boats and spraying it with high-pressure water hoses, but Cuban authorities blamed it on the United States, according to news reports.

Seeing the broadcast on Spanish television in Miami, Soto

looks disturbed.

"It's very painful to see those things as a pastor, as a Cuban, as a Christian," said Soto, pastor of McCall Baptist Church in Havana, the Cuban capital.

"I've seen so much of this, but much closer. I've experienced it in (Cuba), dealing with families who have lost people (trying to flee by boat)," Soto said during a recent visit to Miami.

Even as Cuban Baptists face difficult times, he said, they rejoice in spiritual awakening in their churches.

"What's happening in my church is what's happening in most

of the churches in Cuba," Soto said. "There's really an awakening of the churches... and an openness of the people to the gospel."

Soto said that openness is especially apparent among Cuban young people. "We're seeing many, many young people going to the churches and showing a true and deep desire to serve the Lord," he said.

Also, growing numbers of Cuban Baptist young people are "feeling a call (to full-time ministry) and wanting to go to seminary," Soto said.

"It's one of the worst times in Cuba right now... but it's the best time for the gospel because the kingdom of God is growing (in Cuba)," said Nilo Dominguez, president of the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba. Dominguez, who also visited recently in the Miami area, is a Baptist pastor in Tapaste, Cuba.

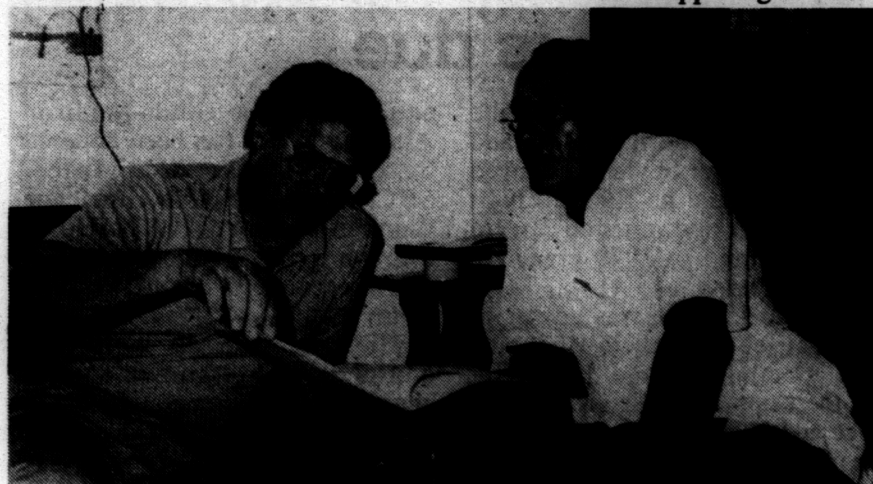
"In 35 years we have doubled our churches," Dominguez said, noting it had taken the convention about 60 years to establish its first 60 churches.

During each of the past two years, western Cuban Baptists have baptized more than 1,000 people and started six new churches. The convention has a goal of starting 10 new churches in 1994.

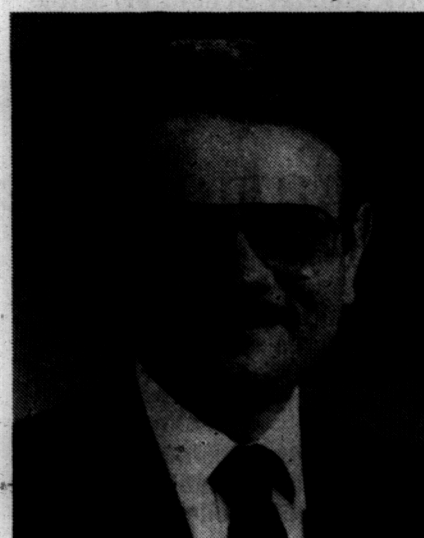
"I think our Christianity now is better than it was in the past," said Dominguez. "First, we have to depend now more on the Lord. Secondly, non-Christian people are looking for the Lord" because of the current economic crisis in Cuba.



HAPPY CAMPERS — Cuban children show foreign missionary Jim Palmer (right) a project they are working on at the Baptist camp in Cuba's Yumuri Valley. Palmer, who serves in Nicaragua, recently visited Cuba to consult with leaders of the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba. That convention, which Southern Baptists relate to, also operates a home for the aged and a seminary in Havana. The Foreign Mission Board has handed Southern Baptist relationships with the western convention since 1989. Earlier those relationships were maintained by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. (BP photo by Mark Smith)



EXCHANGING IDEAS — Missionary Mark Smith (left) consults with Cuban Baptist pastor Ernesto Diaz during a recent visit to Havana, Cuba. Smith is area missionary for the Caribbean with the Foreign Mission Board. Diaz directs the evangelism department of the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba. Southern Baptists relate to that convention, one of four Baptist groups in Cuba. The convention has 120 churches and 100 mission congregations. At the time of the Cuban revolution that brought Fidel Castro to power in 1959, the convention had 60 churches. Each Sunday about 50,000 Cubans worship in those churches. (BP photo by Mickey Searcy)



Fite

HISTORIC TRIP — Former missionary David Fite returned to Cuba July 30, his first visit to the

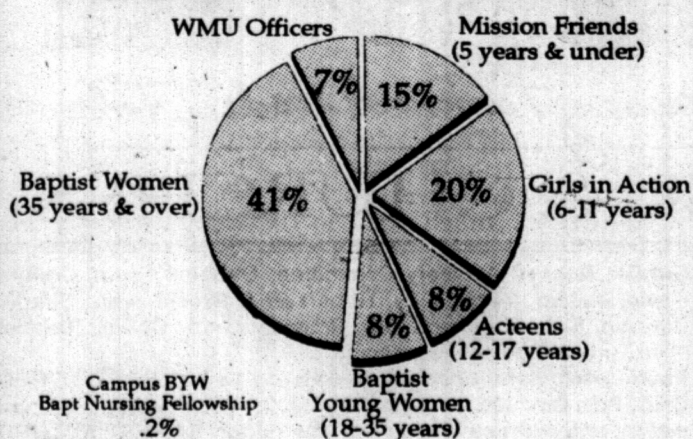
communist nation since his release from prison there 25 years ago.

Fite and his wife Margaret, of Fort Worth, Texas, led conferences in pastoral care and family relationships, respectively, for the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba. The Fites were missionaries in Cuba from 1960-69 under the Home Mission Board. Mrs. Fite is the daughter of former missionaries to Cuba, the late Herbert Caudill and his wife Marjorie of Decatur, Ga.

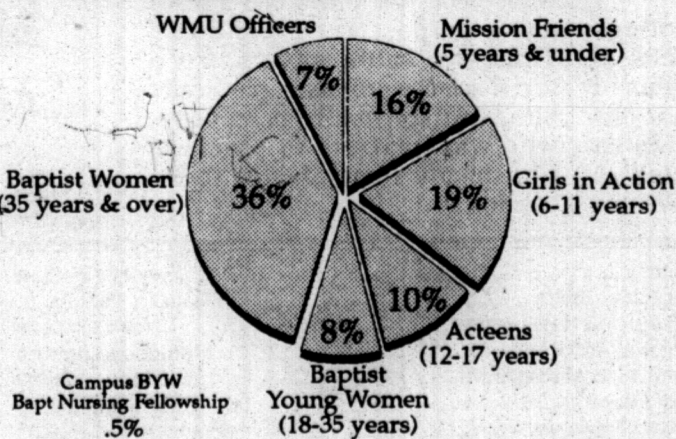
In April 1965 David Fite, Herbert Caudill, and about 50 Cuban Baptist leaders were imprisoned by communist officials on charges of alleged counterrevolutionary activity. The missionaries were released and deported in 1969 after lengthy diplomatic intervention. Eventually, all the Cuban Baptists also were freed.

State WMU stats closely track Southern Baptist numbers

Southern Baptist Convention



Mississippi Baptist Convention



Percentages are rounded.

Source: 1993 Southern Baptist Handbook

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Jasper County native Amy Ishee, 10, wins the European Baptist Convention's Bible Drill competition in Interlaken, Switzerland, while her father serves a military tour of duty in West Germany.

20 years ago

Lowery and Kitty Cooper, Mississippians who have served as missionaries to Argentina for the past 35 years, attend their last mission meeting in that country before heading home for retirement.

50 years ago

Mississippi Baptists condemn the War Production Board's decision to release enough raw materials to produce 50,000,000 gallons of blended whiskey, asking, "Are our sons fighting (World War II) to save such privileges?"

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Future talk for Mississippi Baptists

We are all interested in the future, and hopefully in the future of Baptists in our state. There has been quite an investment in lives and material to build churches and institutions.

Interesting books focus our attention on the future: Alvin Toffler's *Future Shock*, John Naisbitt's *Megatrends 2000*, Russell Chandler's *Racing Toward 2001*, George Barna's *The American Family and Church Ministry*, and dozens of others.

"Future Talk for Southern Baptists" is a mission strategy of the Home Mission Board and is worthwhile.

There are some absolutes that must be factored into all the prophecies of tomorrow — words such as "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever; Heaven and earth will pass away but my word will abide forever; Go ye... and lo, I am with you even to the end of the ages, and... behold, I come quickly."

These north stars of guidance must be on our minds even as we study the projected strategy, demography, and the runaway train of changes. Our institutions, social mores, and even personal

values will be under fire.

The Bible gives a complete picture of God in the midst of change. We've trusted him in human history and we can trust him in the midst of change.

World population is expected to top 6 billion ere we ring in the new century. Age distribution is a worry; racial and ethnic profiles are changing; and America's values are becoming a raging sea of color.

Varied cultures, traditions, and religions may be quaint but create a hodgepodge of our national values. Into this mixing vat, add the rising divorce rate, changes in rearing children, and vast increases in leisure time, and you have all the makings of a decadent day.

Like it or not, we cannot halt changes but we can study them. "Future talk for Mississippi Baptists" will have to include all these factors.

James T. Draper Jr., in *Bridges to the Future*, seeks to draw a profile of an effective church. Daring leadership, adaptability, and dedicated servant-leaders are called forth. The crucial role of laity, Sunday School or "Bible Study" breaking the mold, and

evangelism conducted by all of God's people are vital.

Changes we will face by planning or by accident:

— Instability of large number of children from broken homes;

— Growing tension between church and state and deep resentment against taxes;

— Hobbies, special interests will claim vast part of incomes as leisure time revolution continues;

— Strong spirit of volunteerism will be a major force (the graying of our population will spark much of this);

— Increasing unrest among minorities, a protest against affluence;

— Widespread use of media, swift changes in communications, and a whole new chapter on "how we learn;"

— More bivocational pastors, transitional churches in transitional communities.

This is back to school time. Educators are challenged to produce a student which can fit successfully into such a future. It can be done and from kindergarten teachers to college professors, we wish them well as they accept the challenge.

What Southern Baptists expect from a denominational college

By Kermit D. McGregor

McGregor was Clinton pastor and Education Committee chairman in 1979 when he addressed the faculty-staff workshop at Mississippi College. He currently pastors First Church, Mendenhall. We still need to be reminded of these excerpts from that 1979 address.

The challenge is first to listen to the past. To remember is to respond to God's Word and to recognize God's work. Thank God for the reflection of educational institutions that were distinctive in purpose, in program, and in personnel.

There is also a challenge to live in the present. Baptists expect their faculty and staff to be Christian in belief and behavior. Each has a responsibility to demonstrate in attitude and action, in the classroom and the coliseum, that "Jesus Christ is Lord." Every faculty member should be an active member of a local fellowship of believers. To the vast majority of faithful worshippers Scripture speaks...

"if a person be overtaken in a fault, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted" (Gal. 6:1).

The Christian college message should be appreciably different from the secular college. We know that we have moved out of the Victorian age, but we believe the basic standards of right and wrong, good and evil, light and darkness, salvation and sin, have not changed. Mississippi Baptists expect you as leaders to set the example in right conduct and right relationship, in conversation and choices. Theodore Roosevelt said, "To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society."

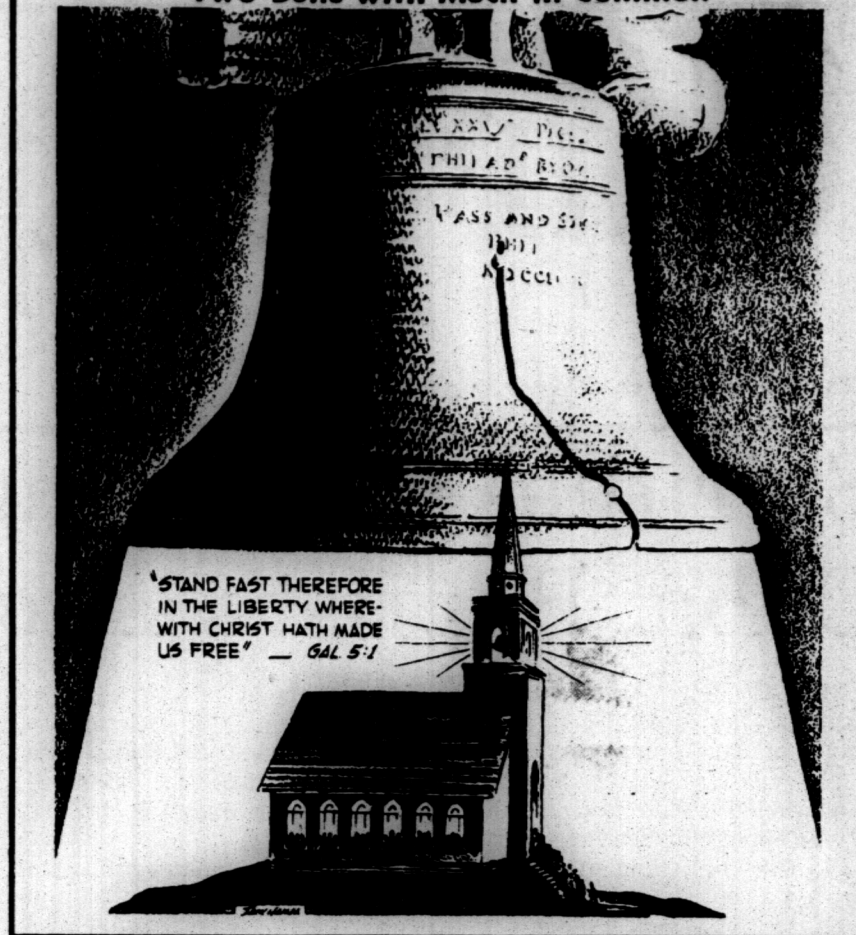
We caution every college leader to be extremely careful to guard our heritage of separation of church and state. The largest one item in the Mississippi Baptist Convention budget is listed as "Christian Education".... We are

morally and spiritually obligated to God, our convention, and the congregations that voluntarily choose to give mission money.

The denomination also expects you to lean toward the future. Especially in this time... in the area of stewards and as faithful students. We must be willing to make mid-course corrections, however slight or radical, to steer the ship of Christian Higher Education toward affirmative rather than negative, toward adventure rather than retreat, toward hope rather than fear, toward spirituality rather than carnality.

Thank God for the dedication of a Bible professor who captured the attention of a student for a lifetime with, "God has a plan and a place and a purpose for every life." Thank God for the application of a social science professor, physically blind but spiritually perceptive, who was unafraid to proclaim Christianity's contribution to the cosmos.

Two Bells with Much in Common



THE FRAGMENTS

Tribute to whom tribute is due

J.W. Brister is a son of the Delta. He was born in Isola and eight years later his family moved to Terry. There he finished high school, met and married Virgie Hutchins, and in 1949 preached his first sermon.

A year later he was pastor of the Galilee Church in Rockport and attending college. I met him on the campus at Mississippi College and both of us had a lifelong desire to serve the Lord in missions.

After pastoring several churches, he became director of missions for the Gulf Coast Association.

Jay handled it well and continued to build upon the foundation started by O.B. Anderson.

In 1977 he moved on to Austin, Texas, as director of missions. He was recognized as one of the outstanding urban DOMs in the nation.

In 1980 Jay returned to Jackson

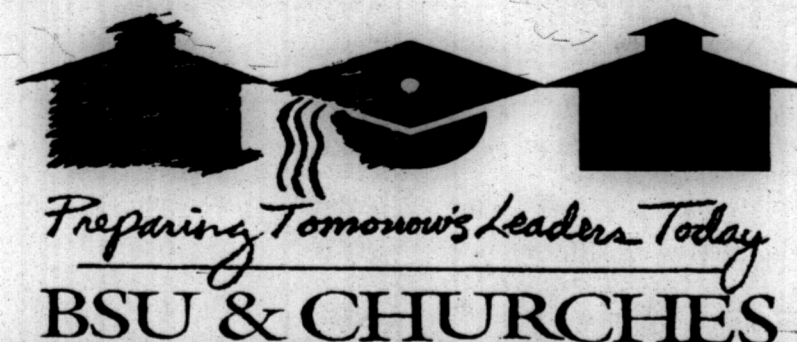
as DOM for the Hinds-Madison Association. He has been honored by the Executive Committee, SBC, for his work in Hurricane Camille on the coast. The Home Mission Board recognized him in 1983 as the outstanding DOM in a metro area.

He has assisted in starting 32 churches and is known for his church planting strength.

Last week I attended his retirement banquet where he was affirmed by so many of his friends. In a sense, he epitomizes the directors of missions in Mississippi. His allegiance is to the churches and he strives on their behalf.

As we pay tribute to Jay, we also recognize the 60 or more directors of missions in 75 associations and the valuable contribution they make to the cause of our Lord.

— GH



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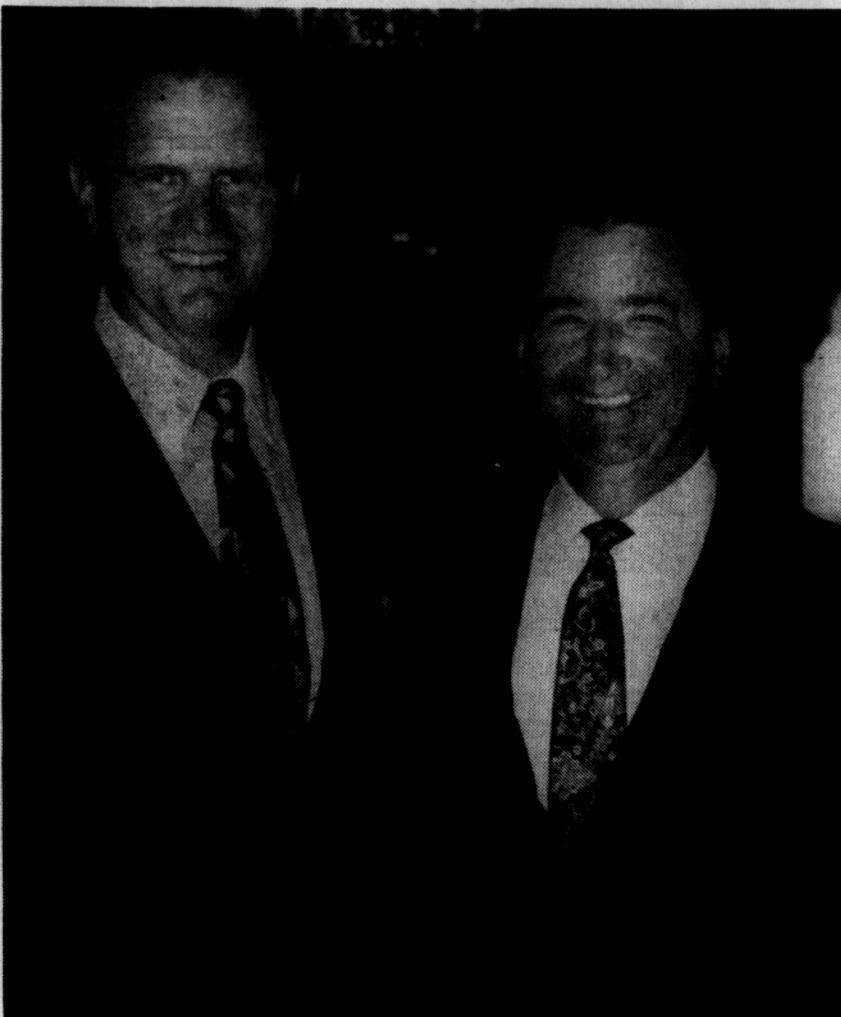
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FORT WORTH — Ken Hemphill (left) is congratulated by Willie R. (Billy) Brumfield, pastor of Rolling Creek Church, Clarke Association, upon Hemphill's election July 28 as the seventh president of Southwestern Seminary. Brumfield is a Mississippi member of Southwestern's board of trustees.

Hemphill is "committed to conservative resurgence," says search committee

FORT WORTH — The election of church growth specialist and former Virginia pastor Kenneth S. Hemphill on July 28 came during a special called meeting of Southwestern Seminary's 40-member board of trustees.

Hemphill will go to Southwestern after serving two years as director of the Southern Baptist Center for Church Growth in Atlanta. The center is a cooperative venture between the Home Mission Board and the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Before the board of trustees elected Hemphill as Southwest-

ern's new president, he was recommended "enthusiastically and unanimously" by a search committee of 11 trustees and two advisory members representing faculty and students, according to Miles Seaborn, the committee's chairman.

"A peacemaker at heart, Hemphill understands the mandate of the Southern Baptist Convention concerning the conservative resurgence and is personally committed to that mandate and to leading Southwestern Seminary in fulfilling the direction of the convention," Seaborn said.

Annuity Board reports growth despite investment market trials

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Trustees of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting Aug. 1-2 in Richmond, Va., heard reports of continuing growth in assets, contributions, and benefits paid despite six months of investment market turmoil.

Following market trends, earnings are down for the first six months of 1994. Despite the losses of 3.9% in the board's Variable Fund and 3.6% in the Balanced Fund, assets still ended the period with a total of \$4,386,557,532, a growth of \$206,117,454, or 5% above June 30, 1993.

The Fixed Fund, with earnings of 2.81%, exceeded the performance of its benchmark and remains on track for its estimated performance range of 5.15% to 6.15% for the year.

Paul W. Powell, board president, said, "While we take satisfaction in our overall strategies, it is frustrating to see negative earnings. We take comfort in our close tracking of established benchmarks and hope for some market recovery in the second half of the year."

Contributions to member accounts totaled \$118,078,272, to produce what board treasurer Harold D. Richardson called "a healthy increase" of 8.5% over the same period in 1993.

The trustees approved an amendment and restatement of the Church Annuity Plan and Convention Annuity Plan. These documents will go to state conventions for approval of the Church Annuity Plan and to employers for approval of the Convention

Annuity Plan.

Tied to the amendments of the Church Annuity Plan is an offer of \$35 million in billing credits to the state conventions, the credits to offset costs of the Protection Section, and to supplement certain matching contributions in the years 1995-99.

Benefits paid for retirement, relief, and Adopt An Annuity jumped 24% over those of the first six months in 1993, to a total of \$81,955,078. Virtually all annuitants received a 5% increase effective Jan. 1, 1994, and total annuitants on the benefit rolls topped 25,000 during the second quarter. There were 447 couples or individuals on the relief roll and 1,488 were receiving Adopt An Annuity benefits of \$50 per month at the end of June.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Materialism is top threat to religion in today's world

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Materialism — favoring choices over absolutes and assuming all problems can be solved with science and the human mind — represents the greatest threat to Christianity in today's world, a conference leader told participants in a session during "Jericho: A Southern Baptist Missions Festival" Aug. 1 at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center.

In a conference on issues and forces affecting global missions, Jimmy Maroney, director of the Foreign Mission Board's global desk, emphasized some results of materialism such as medications that save lives are good.

However, "this whole umbrella of materialism — modernity, secularization, and plurality — is insidious," he said. "Your views on materialism dictate your lifestyle and behavior."

"We cannot pray for lost people all over the world and still maintain the lifestyle we have," Maroney said.

David Watson, a worker with Southern Baptists' Cooperative Services International in Singapore, challenged conference participants to evaluate their own lifestyles.

"When things become more important than people, you are a materialist and you worship at that altar," he said.

For example, Watson said if a person involved in a car accident thinks first of the damage to the car rather than the condition of the person in the other vehicle, he is a materialist.

Maroney noted no Scripture is

available in 4,500 of the 15,000 languages of the world.

"Basically the reason there are 4,500 languages without Scripture is because of our disobedience," Maroney said. "We have not carried out the Great Commission" to take the gospel to the entire world.

Maroney said two other forces, Islam and mega-poverty, are growing in the world while a third, totalitarianism, is not as strong as 25 years ago.

The "simplistic nature" of the Islamic religion makes it particu-

The world "is not the way it used to be. It is complicated and... going to get more that way."

larly attractive, said Maroney, noting it presently has 935 million adherents worldwide. That figure is expected to top 1.2 billion by the year 2000.

"Wherever legalism flourishes, the Islamic religion can grow to an unbelievable strength," Maroney said. He noted Islam is experiencing growth in the prisons of the United States.

On the other hand, he said, "where there is freedom in Christ, the chance of the Islamic religion flourishing is diminished."

Regarding poverty, he said 46% of the world's population are needy or destitute. Another 10% are just getting by. At the other

end of the spectrum, 9% are wealthy and 35% are comfortably well off.

Among Christians today, 1 billion worldwide are poor and 715 million of them live in cities.

In addition to the forces of materialism, mega-poverty, Islam, and totalitarianism, Maroney said missionaries minister in a world increasingly influenced by transnational corporations which often have more power than national governments.

Also, many of the 7,000 world cities with populations in excess of 100,000 have more power than the countries in which they are located.

Nations are diminishing in influence while people groups with a common language and culture are growing, Maroney said.

Maroney emphasized the world "is not the way it used to be. It is complicated and it is going to get more that way."

He predicted the possible evolution of a "more radical Christianity" that is more obviously different from the values of a secular world. "When it is recognized as different from society, evangelism will do better than ever before."

"When you lift the uniqueness of Christ, you will lose some but some will find it as the answer to the confusion of their soul," Maroney said.

Approximately 1,400 people attended Jericho which was sponsored by the Home and Foreign Mission boards, Baptist Sunday School Board, Woman's Missionary Union, and Brotherhood Commission.

pi banker; Bob R. Howard, a Missouri insurance executive; and William A. Willis, a retired Arkansas insurance executive. Howard and Willis rotated off the Annuity Board's trustee board in June.

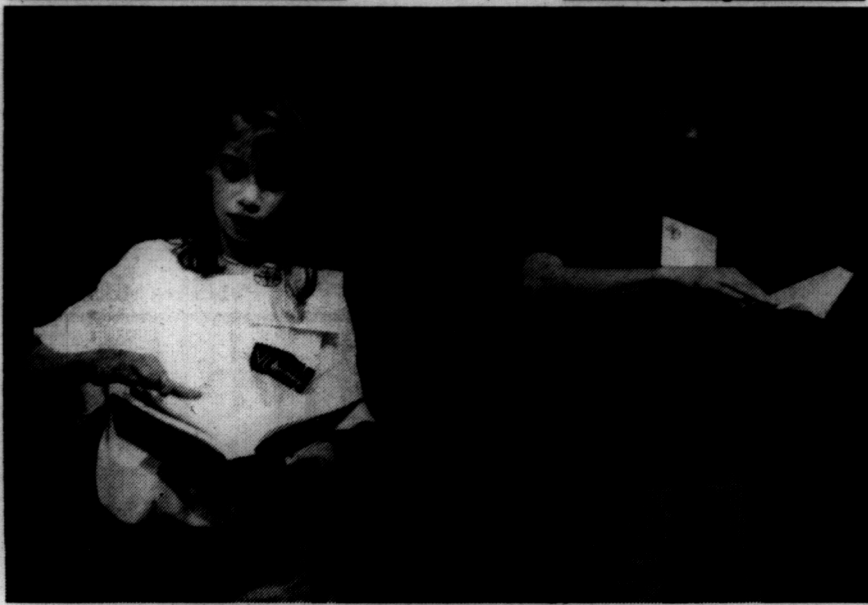
The board's insurance committee reported continuing encouragement in enrollments and claims experience. The higher benefits and lower deductibles, implemented in January for the Personal Security Program Comprehensive Medical Plan, are having expected impact on the total reserves. It was reported that a decision on January 1995 rates for the medical plans will be announced about the beginning of the fourth quarter.

The next scheduled meeting of the board of trustees will be Oct. 31-Nov. 1 in Dallas.

In the meeting of the board's relief committee, changes were made in the relief guidelines to raise allowable personal assets from \$5,000 to \$15,000 for individuals and from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for couples. The committee also raised relief benefits for 221 people or couples, effective Sept. 1, 1994.

The relief committee affirmed offering one-time emergency grants of up to \$2,000 for eligible victims of recent flooding in Florida, Alabama, and Georgia. The Christmas check for monthly relief and expense grant recipients on roll Dec. 1, 1994, will be increased from \$150 to \$175.

Three new members were elected for the Annuity Board's endowment development council: Thomas W. Colbert, a Mississip-



Bible Drill demo

GLORIETA, N.M. — Scott Wallace (right) of Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, practices for a Bible drill demonstration with other state convention winners during Discipleship and Family Development Week at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center, July 2-9. Youth Bible Drill is a joint project of Baptist state conventions and the Baptist Sunday School Board. (Photo by Jim Veneman)

Senate tells EEOC to remove religion from its guidelines

WASHINGTON (BP) — While the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission continues to ponder the future of its proposed religious harassment guidelines, Congress keeps sending signals — and most recently, a command — about its desires.

The Senate approved an amendment ordering the EEOC to delete the category of religion from guidelines on harassment in the workplace. Critics have charged the inclusion of religion in the proposed guidelines will result in a ban on religious expression on the job, largely because of employers' fear of lawsuits.

The amendment, which was passed without opposition by voice vote July 22, must survive a conference committee of members from both the Senate and House of Representatives. The House already had passed the same spending bill with an EEOC amendment, but its measure prohibits the use of funds for implementation of the guidelines if they are not changed. The House

approved the amendment 366-37.

A spokesman for Sen. Howell Heflin, D.-Ala., who was joined by Sen. Hank Brown, R.-Colo., in introducing the amendment, said there is not a lot of concern about its place in the final bill.

"I don't think there's going to be too much debate as to whether to keep it in," said Tom McMahon, Heflin's press secretary.

"This is exactly what we wanted Congress to do," said James A. Smith, the Christian Life Commission's director of government relations. "So we are quite pleased that both the House and Senate have clearly demonstrated their displeasure with these guidelines. We're going to contact the conferees and ask them to go with the Heflin-Brown language as the most permanent solution to the problem."

The strong Senate action followed a mid-June vote of 94-0 in the same body approving a non-binding resolution calling for religion to be deleted from the guidelines.

Town & Country conferences scheduled for Ripley, Ecru

Town and Country Church Music Conferences are set for Aug. 11-13 at Springdale Church, Ripley, and Ecru Church, Ecru. The conference at Springdale begins at 6 p.m. Aug. 11 and concludes at noon Aug. 12. At Ecru, it begins at 6 p.m. Aug. 12 and ends at noon Aug. 13.

The conference, sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Music Department, is designed for all church music leadership but especially for leadership from churches with 150 or less in Sunday School.

Each conference will include four music reading sessions with composer Elmo Mercer and his wife Marcia from Nashville.

In addition, participants can attend classes (with leader) for music directors (Jimmy McCaleb, MBCB); choir members (Kenny Adams, minister of music, Mt. Zion Church, Independence); pianists and organists (Lola Autry, Hickory Flat); and children's choir leadership (Rusty Miller, minister of music of the host church).

Participants may register at the door. Cost is \$5 per person.

Mississippi's WMU disaster unit activated for Georgia

The childcare unit of Mississippi's disaster relief service has been activated to serve in south Georgia where flooding caused massive displacement of people. The unit is operated by Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU).

The volunteers, led by Kaye Cassibry and Jan Cossitt, both of the Mississippi WMU staff, left Aug. 7 and arrived in Albany, Ga., Aug. 8 to work in childcare at a hotel ballroom where parents are making application for relief.

Sources said most applications required about two hours and that 75-80 children, birth through seven years, needed care at one time.

The team was taking children's disaster kits assembled by WMU groups in the state which included items such as activity books, games, candy, and toothbrushes. Childcare boxes containing construction paper, crayons, and glue will be on hand in the travel trailer.

Three teams of volunteers were

requested by Mickey Caison, who heads up Southern Baptists' disaster relief program for the Brotherhood Commission. Mississippi WMU is expected to provide at least two teams. Each team will serve a week.

The first team, along with Cassibry and Cossitt, included Mae Hardin, Winona; Yvonne Martin, Tylertown (and her husband Joe); Margaret Deer, Tylertown; Pat Sullivan, Mt. Olive; Dixie Kennedy, Wesson; and Martha Kate Phillips, Calhoun City.

MALT on track, deadline approaches

By William H. Perkins Jr.

include Sunday School and Discipleship Training.

Registration can be made as individuals or groups. Registration fee for each person from the sponsoring associations is \$5, while the fee for each person outside the

The August 19 pre-registration deadline is drawing near for the first Metro Area Leader Training (MALT) conference on August 26-27 at First Church, Jackson, according to James Webster, MALT steering committee chairman and director of church services for Hinds-Madison Association.

"A steady stream of pre-registrations is coming in every day. We're finishing up the last details, and we're ready to go," he reported.

The MALT conference will include 195 sessions on 159 different church-related subjects, conducted by the best conference leaders available, Webster said.

Among those slated to lead sessions are Steve Bennett, pastor of Colonial Hills Church in Southaven, one of the fastest-growing churches in the Southern Baptist Convention; Carole Green, preschool specialist with the Louisiana Baptist Convention (LBC); Jim Kinney of Walk Through the Bible Ministries in Atlanta; and Randy Tompkins, former consultant in the Sunday School department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) and now director of church growth-Sunday School at LBC.

Bob Mathis and Jim Minton from New Orleans Seminary will be on hand to conduct several sessions.

The Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) in Nashville will supply a number of session leaders, including David Carter, Mancil Ezell, Ken Marler, Linda Miniard, former MBCB staffer David Morrow, Sharon Smith, Jim Taulman, and Linda Thompson.

Thompson will bring a display of BSSB's newly-revamped Sunday School curriculum material, which will be the first viewing of the new material for many Mississippi Baptists.

Major areas of concentration on the MALT conference agenda include: General Officer, Adult Leadership, Youth, Children, Children/Preschool Leadership, and Preschool.

Sponsoring associations are Metro (Hinds-Madison), Rankin, Warren, Simpson, Leake, Copiah/Lincoln, and Yazoo. MBCB departments involved in MALT

sponsoring associations is \$10.

For more information on the individual conferences and to pre-register, contact Webster at 6530 Dogwood View Parkway, Jackson, MS 39213. Telephone: (601) 362-8676.

SBC Cooperative Program gifts up 4% for 2nd month

NASHVILLE (BP) — For the second month in a row, Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts were up more than 4% above the previous year, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

For July, the increase was 4.69%; for June it was 4.34%. CP receipts for the year stand at 3.31% above 1993.

The July CP total was \$12,030,817, compared to July 1993 of \$11,491,306, for an increase of \$539,511. For the 10

months of the fiscal year, total CP receipts stand at \$118,630,576, compared to the same period the previous fiscal year of \$114,835,034.

The SBC 1993-94 budget also has been surpassed for the 10 months. Required for this period is \$115,195,612, with receipts to date placing it more than \$3 million above the budget.

Designated gifts for the year. \$123,452,486, stand at .66% ahead of last year's total at this point. \$122,643,109, although July 1994's total of \$4,243,380 was 14.9% below July 1993 of \$4,986,491.



Joint effort in clothes shipment

The Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood, the Partnership Missions Office, Helping Hand of Hattiesburg, and Christ for Humanity recently joined forces to ship a container loaded with 1,820 boxes of clothing to Russia. Upon its arrival in Moscow, Christian Life Church there distributed the container of clothes to eight churches and 25 other organizations which opened their doors to preach and give out Christian literature. Over 15,000 people were impacted by the clothing distribution/preaching effort. Carl Heburg (above), director of Helping Hand of Hattiesburg, coordinated volunteers in packing and loading the boxes onto the container. Contact the Partnership Missions Office at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board if your church would like to participate in future shipments.

Blue Mountain College begins year with campus remodeling

Blue Mountain College's 122nd annual session officially begins on Sunday, Aug. 28, 1994, when the dormitories open for students. Orientation and registration are set for Monday, Aug. 29, with classes scheduled to begin on Tuesday, Aug. 30.

Orientation provides a tie for new and transferring students to meet faculty and administrative staff, and hear a brief history of Blue Mountain College and events planned for the 1994-95 session.

New and returning students will find many improvements on the college campus. The Baptist Student Union is ecstatic at the thought of starting the new year in a newly refurbished building. Broach, the Baptist Student Union building, was destroyed by fire on May 17, 1993.

Through the hard work and generous donations of many individuals, the building has been restored. The building was redesigned to provide for the various BSU and campus programs. The upstairs area is for Noonday prayer services as well as the BSU director's office and work rooms, BSU Council Room, a prayer room, and storage areas. The downstairs is designed as a multi-purpose area where large groups can meet, meals can be served, recreation activities can be held, and the various BSU Fine Arts teams can practice. There is a need to furnish and equip the building before it can be utilized completely.

The chemistry labs and storage area have also been redesigned and rebuilt. The labs have been modernized and equipped to improve the teaching environment for science.

The college will complete the

installation of a new heating and air conditioning system in Garrett Fine Arts center prior to the fall semester. The old system was beyond repair; not only was the heat system replaced but air conditioning was also added.

The installation of a new computer system in the administrative offices should improve services to students as well as the overall efficiency of all administrative functions.

On Sunday, Aug. 28, the Baptist Student Union will sponsor a special workshop for freshmen and transfer students. The purpose of the workshop is to offer valuable information on topics such as study habits and time management while helping students become better acquainted.

"BSU Fantasy Island" is the theme for this year's welcome party. Students can enjoy an evening of fun while learning ways to become involved in the BSU at Blue Mountain. Upcoming events include auditions for the Fine Arts teams on Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 with a workshop to follow on Sept. 9-10.

Missions Emphasis Week, Oct. 10-14, will showcase ways to become more involved in missions. Students will hear from career foreign missionaries, student summer missionaries, and laymen active in missions. Fall retreat, scheduled for Oct. 28-30, will be led by Cindy Townsend, youth minister at First Church, Jackson.

Blue Mountain College students continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to missions. During the summer of 1994, six students served as summer missionaries, five through BSU and one through the Home Mission Board. Six other

students served in camp situations at Camp Garaywa, Central Hills Baptist Assembly, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Camp Crestridge for Girls, and Yellowstone National Park.

High School Weekend, an opportunity for high school students to visit the campus and "sample" college life, is scheduled for Nov. 18-19. Activities kick off Friday afternoon.

Mississippi Baptists help make Christian education at Blue Mountain College possible through financial support of the Cooperative Program and through prayers.

Thursday, August 11, 1994

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Planning activities for the MBMC Baptist Student Union are (from left): Edie Ashley, BSU president for the School of Medical Technology; Kathy Bearden, BSU director; Lu Harding, MBMC assistant executive director; and Shari Jacobs, BSU president for the School of Radiography.

MBMC's schools of allied health train, prepare students to serve

Training to become a healthcare professional is rigorous and challenging. At Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, technology students gain a special sense of pride in their work because they are a part of MBMC's special mission — the Christian healing ministry.

MBMC's schools of allied health train radiologic technologists and medical technologists — vital members of the healthcare team.

Radiologic technologists are specifically trained to assist with various X-ray procedures. The 24-month training program includes courses ranging from radiologic technique and procedures to computer literacy.

Medical technologists perform and analyze laboratory tests, which physicians use to diagnose and treat patients. The 12-month program

includes lectures in all phases of laboratory medicine and training in the major divisions of the clinical lab.

"MBMC's schools give students valuable hands-on experience in a clinical setting," said Gwinn Magee, MBMC assistant executive director. "MBMC's schools prepare them to immediately begin a very successful and rewarding career."

In the past 23 years, 93% of MBMC technology students have passed the national certification examinations required for employment. The national pass rate is only 80%. During the past 12 years, 97% of MBMC's radiography students have passed the national certification examinations required.

The School of Medical Technology has announced a new affiliation with William Carey College in Hattiesburg, allowing students who meet certain requirements to spend their senior year in the medical technology school. Grades from MBMC are then transferred back to William Carey for the student's graduation.

This year the School of Medical Technology also sponsored a Career Day for interested students from local schools. The Career Day included educational workshops and a tour of MBMC's new laboratory facilities.

The Radiography School also has a new affiliation, with Hinds Community College's Nursing and Allied Health Center. Certain prerequisites from Hinds will allow students to study at MBMC while working toward an associate in applied science degree from Hinds.

However, the clinical training is only one part of students' involvement at the medical center. A special program, the Baptist Student Union, provides the opportunity for students to interact with each other and focus on spiritual enrichment.

Kathy Bearden, BSU director, says, "These bright young people bring lots of enthusiasm to BSU activities. This year our program includes speakers and a luncheon every week, as well as weekly Bible studies and discussions. The

MBMC staff really helps make these activities fun and meaningful for students."

The BSU initiated a new "Big Brother/Big Sister" system to help welcome first year X-ray entrants. Second year students contacted new students before school started, and then helped acquaint them to MBMC.

Upcoming BSU activities include: a Christmas party for children at the Baptist Children's Village; three musical concerts for MBMC employees; carolling through the hospital at Christmas and Easter to share inspiration with patients; a flea market to raise money for missions, and a newly formed singing group.

To enter MBMC's schools of allied health, applicants must meet certain requirements. To become a medical technologist, one must earn a baccalaureate degree. MBMC is affiliated with Mississippi College and Mississippi State University to allow students to substitute the 12 months of clinical training for their senior years in college.

To train as a radiologic technologist, one must have a strong math background and have scored at least 19 on the ACT. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and have a high school education or the equivalent, along with first and second semester college anatomy and physiology, and either intermediate or college algebra.

MBMC maintains a clinical affiliation with Hinds Community College's Schools of Respiratory Therapy and Practical Nursing, which allow students to rotate through hospital units for clinical credits.

Nursing students from other colleges and universities can also participate in training at MBMC, and residents from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine rotate through some service divisions at MBMC.

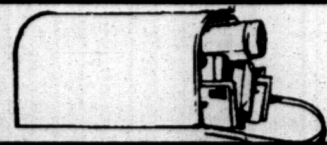
For more information about MBMC allied health schools, write them at 1225 N. State St., Jackson, MS 39202; or call Kathy Bearden, (601) 968-5144.

By helping you become your best, Blue Mountain offers an education for a lifetime.

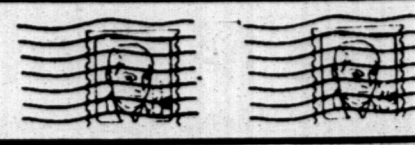
Blue Mountain College offers an environment which stimulates learning and nurtures Christian faith. At Blue Mountain, we challenge and enable YOU.

- ★ to grow intellectually and spiritually;
- ★ to build lasting friendships;
- ★ to discover talents and the joys of sharing them with others;
- ★ to assume a responsible, creative role in college and community life;
- ★ to respond confidently and successfully to the challenges of the 21st Century.

B
BLUE
MOUNTAIN
COLLEGE
FOUNDED 1873



Letters to the editor



Increase CP gifts

Editor:

The Budget Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention is probably meeting and working on the 1995 budget for our convention. For years now there has been a struggle to meet our budget. In fact some of those years we didn't. What have we as Mississippi Baptists done when we didn't reach our goals? We have gone back on our commitment to increase our gifts to the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention. In other words, we cut our giving to missions. We as a convention said that our missionaries on the home and foreign fields were less important than educating doctors, lawyers, businessmen, and teachers in Mississippi.

God has placed in the hands of Mississippi Baptists a method of sending the good news to the world. It is called the Cooperative Program. It seems very irresponsible for churches, associations, and our state convention to spend God's money on luxurious buildings and exorbitant salaries while people in a needy world have never heard the gospel. Will the leaders of Mississippi Baptists, pastors, directors of missions, and our state convention's executive director/ treasurer be faithful in their God-given roles to lead the churches they pastor, the associations they lead, and yes, our state convention, to increase the percentages they give through the Cooperative Program for missions?

Pastor, for the sake of the spread of the gospel to an open but lost world, will you lead your church to increase its giving to at least 10%, if it is not already giving that much or more?

Director of missions: I pray that you will lead the association you lead to get off the dole (the \$1,500 a year of Cooperative Program funds returned to each association each year).

Executive director, will you not lead this convention to increase its percentage of Cooperative Program funds going to missions through the SBC?

James R. Walker, pastor
Pheba Church
Pheba

God with big "G"

Editor:

Trinity Church in Southaven drew such a stern reply from Donny Horton in Letters to the Editor on July 14, I felt compelled to reply.

First of all, we do worship the God of growth. However, our God is spelled with a capital "G" not with a small "g," and Jehovah is his name. Horton left the impression that it was wrong for a church to appeal to people, build beautiful buildings, increase their budgets and Sunday School enrollments, or borrow money. I thought the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20) commanded us to reach people. As I read the account of the

early church in Acts, they seemed to focus on people and certainly their numbers grew: 3,000 were saved in one service (2:41). They were blessed by the "God of growth" as their numbers multiplied (6:7). My point is this... a growing church should not be the target of criticism and church growth should not be looked at as wrong. What we should do is hang our heads over the 6,000 Southern Baptist churches which did not baptize a single person all last year. A church like that will certainly never need to worry about appealing to people, growing too large, or even needing to borrow money to build buildings.

I, too, believe growth should be "God-centered, God-honoring, and God-manufactured." Those who know anything about Trinity and the miracle of what God has done here, understand that what we have experienced is so dynamic that it is not humanly possible to explain or manufacture.

For anyone to insinuate that churches like ours have "abandoned the worship of Jesus Christ," do not "preach sound doctrinal truth," do not "seek to worship in spirit and truth," or that we, by borrowing money, "only reveal what man can do" is not only judgmental in nature but it sounds a great deal like what the Pharisees said about Jesus.

I assure you that in doing this we have never "placed ourselves at risk of compromise" or formed any "dangerous alliances with the world." Our message is Jesus Christ and him crucified, our fellowship is the finest of any church in our Convention. Our families are being taught to raise godly children. Our adults are taught principles of tithing, financial responsibility, and avoidance of improper use of credit. What more could we do?

I would like to remind our Mississippi Baptist people that it is God's will for every church to grow. For a church to grow large does not mean it is worldly, just as a small church is not more spiritual. When given a choice between obeying the "God of growth" or the gods of tradition, our people will go with growth every time.

Isn't it time we stop being jealous of what our sister churches are doing and just be obedient in serving Christ to the best of our ability where we are? Maybe we should reread and put into action the message of our Lord found in 1 John 3:11, "we should love one another."

Jim Butler, pastor
Trinity Church
Southaven

Help from friends

Editor:

I would like to brag a little on some life-savers from Jackson. On July 29 I, along with two other adults from First Church, Nettleton, took our youth to Youth Night '94 in Jackson. It was a wonderful experience — the concert by Point of Grace and the speaking of Mike Curry, that is. When the evening's

events were over and we loaded into the van to go, the van decided it would like to stay longer. It refused to start. Luckily, two very nice men from First Church, Verona, did what they could to help us. The two men, Mr. Hugh and Mr. John, had someone jump us off. If that wasn't enough, Mr. John drove us to our hotel just to make sure we got there. Well, we almost did get there. Less than a block from our hotel, our van went on permanent "nap" mode. A Jackson policeman stayed with us while a passerby named Tommy tried to help us. We thank him for trying. We also thank Mark Sander of First Church, Terry, for stopping and offering his help.

Most of all, we would like to thank Stacy Andrews and Broadmoor Church, Jackson, for loaning us one of their vans so we could take a load of tired kids home. There are still servant-hearted people around just waiting to help. I think we found them all in Jackson. Thanks, guys! God bless each one of you.

Carolyn Peters, youth director
First Church, Nettleton
Tupelo

Leaving a family

Editor:

For the past seven years it has been my privilege to have lived in Mississippi and to serve two great churches (First, McComb, and Temple, Hattiesburg). God's call has taken me now to Roswell Street Church in the Atlanta area. There is no possible way to describe my indebtedness to Mississippi Baptists, but I could not leave without writing to those who have touched my life.

When I moved to Mississippi I knew nothing about the state or what it had to offer. I didn't know anyone, but now that has changed. It has been a rewarding journey. From the men and women in the Baptist Building to the students I have met around the state, each one has impacted my life and I am forever grateful. However, none has impacted my life as greatly as the fellowship of the youth ministers in this state of Mississippi. Many do not know this, but Mississippi has the strongest network of youth ministry of any state in the country. These individuals have been my collaborators by their friendship, love, accountability, and commitment to students. They have always been and will always be on the cutting edge of youth ministry. When I was contemplating leaving Mississippi, I had to think about leaving the fellowship of the youth ministers here.

Leaving what my family and I have come to know as home is not easy, but following God is not always easy. Mississippi may not have metropolitan cities or major attractions like other states, but it does have its strength and I have found it. It's in the hearts and lives of the people. Thanks, Mississippi Baptists, for 7 1/2 great years!

Lee Bonner, student minister
Temple Church
Hattiesburg

Regarding Hemphill

Editor:

Some people I respect are expressing guarded optimism about the election of Ken Hemphill as president of Southwestern Seminary. I know him well. He is a good preacher and a successful pastor with a healthy understanding of evangelism and church growth.

But I do not share my friends' feelings about his election. There are not two sets of trustees — one group which lied to Dilday, violated their own procedures, and changed the locks of his office doors while they were firing him — and a different group who were led by the Holy Spirit to this man they would have us believe has watched 15 years of struggle for control of the denomination without taking sides or getting involved.

While I have disagreed with those who are in charge now, I have never made the mistake of thinking they were dumb. They would never elect a president who was not one of them and who would not agree to carry out their agenda. Those who think they would be like Forest Gump — the lovable slow-witted man who took all things literally and believed everything anyone told him.

I have loved Southwestern

from my first class 42 years ago. I do not like what is happening, but I am helpless to stop it and shall continue to grieve.

Kenneth Chafin
Louisville, Ky.

Proud of retreat camp

Editor:

Recently, I sent my three grandsons to Central Hills to our Baptist retreat camp near Kosciusko.

When I went after them, I had the opportunity to walk through the woods to see the various phases of their camp life. I was deeply impressed and was so proud that it belonged to the Baptists in Miss.

Then when I heard the boys relate their experiences about the activities that took place and tell about the missionaries and other leaders who were so impressive, I immediately agreed with them that it was time well-spent. They live in another city, in another state, so this week in the woods with a spiritual atmosphere was an experience they will always remember.

I highly recommend Central Hills as an ideal place for boys, and of course, Camp Garaywa is equally as superior for girls.

Johnnie Foster
Aberdeen



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

Do you have any advice for a mother-in-law dealing with a daughter-in-law who is very jealous of her husband's family?

Behind most jealousy is fear — of loss, inadequacy, failure, or even losing. Pray for your daughter-in-law, using 1 John 4:18 and 2 Timothy 1:7. Look for the good in your her, remarking on her assets and good qualities. Ask her advice and look for ways to include her in activities. Give her responsibilities at family gatherings; encourage her along the way. Don't make a big deal of her reactions. When she realizes she is an important part of your family, you may be able to talk about these frustrations. Wait until she feels comfortable as a member of your family before commenting on flaws and imperfections, and allow her to express her feelings without defensiveness on your part. If you realize jealousy is a reaction to fear and provides a way for her to control things, then you do not have to react from your own hurt and maybe miss the greater need. Praying for her brings about a power that cannot be matched.

My homosexual past never seems to leave me. How do I handle the temptation?

I am encouraged that you use the word, "temptation," because it says you are not following in that path. We all have inclinations toward one sin or another. That does not mean, however, that we should act on those inclinations. Hebrews 12:1 talks about "sin that so easily entangles." We must come face to face with our sin and decide whether or not to act on it. Homosexuality is no different. Surround yourself with healthy men striving to walk with God and be faithful. Read good books and stay involved in a local church. Maintain a disciplined life (see **LifeAnswers**, Aug. 4, 1994) that includes Bible study, prayer, scripture memory, and an exercise program. Give careful thought to your leisure activities, including the materials you read, the movies you watch, and the places you frequent. Flee from places that cause temptation. Remember the saying about temptation: "You can't stop birds from flying over your head, but you can stop them from making a nest in your hair."

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

HouseTops

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

August 11, 1994

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

BAPTIST 101 THE CHURCH



Church is a gathering of believers in Christ who worship God, help one another grow in the Christian life, and whose mission is to tell others about Jesus. We Baptists generally say a church is a baptized body of believers because we see baptism as the symbol of our faith in Jesus Christ. We believe that regular Bible study should be a part of church life. We call that Bible study Sunday School. No one ever graduates from it, though, because we believe God keeps on showing us more about him the more we study his Word. And we believe in regular worship of God because the Bible calls for it and because we express our love for God this way. Baptists would generally say we feel better when we worship God.

(This is one in a series on Baptists - who we are and what we do.)



HouseTops is for us?

Until we read
about the Lay
Missions

Conference, we thought that
HouseTops was only for church staff
and personnel.

*(See page three for more information
about the Lay Missions Conference!)*

Get on the RIGHT TRACK

TRACK #1 Sunday School Leadership

TRACK #2 Special Ministries for Adult Leadership

SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, Miss.

September 9-10, 1994

Conference Leaders and Titles

GENERAL OFFICERS:

Pastor/Staff - Mike May, Minister of Education, FBC, Brandon
Directors - Joe Armour, Minister of Education, FBC, Clinton
Outreach Leaders - Dionne Williams, Minister of Education, FBC, Gulfport

ADULT:

Inexperienced - Carroll Farmer, Minister of Education, Van Winkle, Jackson
Experienced - David Wills, Minister of Education, FBC, Pearl

YOUTH:

New Workers - Sean Keith, MBCB
Experienced Workers - Margie Williamson, Writer/Conference Leader, FBC, Decatur, Ga.

CHILDREN:

Department Directors - Karen Clauch, Minister to Children/Preschool, FBC, Slidell
Teachers - Evelyn Vaughn, Special Worker, FBC, Jackson

PRESCHOOL:

Department Directors - Peggy Britt, Minister to Preschool, Broadmoor, Jackson
Teachers - Cindy Sansing, Minister to Children/Preschool, Park Place, Brandon
Children/Preschool Division Directors/Staff - Linda Reeves, MBCB

SPECIAL EDUCATION TRACK:

Special Education Leadership - Bobbi McCain, Special Ed Director, East Orlando, Orlando, Fla.

Schedule

FRIDAY

12:30-5:00 Registration
2:00-4:00 Leisure Time
5:15-6:00 Dinner
6:30-7:45 General Session in Auditorium
8:00-9:15 BREAKTHROUGH Sunday School Leadership Conferences
9:30 Ice Cream Fellowship

SATURDAY

7:00 Breakfast
8:00-9:30 BREAKTHROUGH Sunday School Leadership Conferences
9:30-9:45 Break
9:45-11:00 BREAKTHROUGH Sunday School Leadership Conferences
11:15-12:15 General Session in Auditorium
12:15 Lunch

If you require additional information, contact the Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, at (601) 968-3800.

RESERVATION REQUEST Sunday School Leadership Conference Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

100 First Street • Pass Christian, MS 39571-3299

Conference Date _____

Amount of Deposit Enclosed _____

Mr. Mrs. Miss _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Church _____

Names and ages of children:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Accommodations desired

____ 2 per room

____ 3-4 per room



All reservations must be made directly with
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First St.,
Pass Christian, MS 39571. Phone 452-7261.
Reservation requests are accepted by mail only.

pray this day...

August 16-31, 1994

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Prayer Ministry Office P.O. Box 530 Jackson, MS 39205-0530 Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY		for the children you know who will be starting kindergarten this year 16	for the children you know who will be starting first grade this year 17	for the children you know who will be adjusting to repeating a grade this year 18	for the children you know who probably will find the work in their new-grade very difficult 19	for the children who will be going into middle school 20
	for those who will be going into high school 21	for those who will be starting college 22	for those who will finish college and go into the job market 23	for teachers who will work with all of them 24	for parents who must provide for all of them 25	for friends, peer groups, and acquaintances who will influence them 26
	for church staff members and lay leadership who will lead them in their churches 27	for folks in the Baptist Building and in national offices who help plan programs and events which will be a blessing to children and youth throughout the year 28	for strong moral standards for all of us to be willing to help combat the negative forces at work in our state 29	for the ability of us adults to patiently love and nurture those younger than we are 30	for families who need our help in back-to-school efforts, that we would be generous and helpful 31	<i>New adventures</i> -- that part of life which gives us a chance to do something new...to learn something new...to be able to prepare to be what we need to be for the next part of our lives...let's pray especially for those we know who will be having new adventures in education this month...

Lay Missions Conference



Marketplace Ministry: "In Times of Crisis"

The Purpose of the Lay Missions Conference is to help explore ways to extend Christ's Kingdom through the concept of Marketplace Ministry. If we are to win Mississippi and the world to Jesus in our generation, it is significant that each of us become marketplace ministers.

OCTOBER 31, 1994

First Baptist Church, Jackson
Missions Fellowships &
Interest Conferences: 3 p.m.
Banquet: 5 p.m.

Sponsored by the
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

HOUSE OF

When Tough Times Hit Home

by Kris Lee

Kris Lee is a senior at Louisville High School and a member of Wes Chapel Baptist Church. Kris is the 1994 winner of the Mississippi Youth Speakers Tournament. He lives with his uncle, Larry Moorehead, in Louisville.

A story I once read in Viola Walden's book entitled *Sword of the Lord Scrapbook*, went as follows... Some years ago a prominent businessman was visited by a clergyman and asked for a donation. A check for \$250 was gladly given. However, at that moment the businessman received a telephone call informing him of a drastic loss. His ship at sea had wrecked and sunk taking all his business cargo to the bottom of the sea. From the look on his face the clergyman knew something terrible had happened. "That phone call was from my office informing me of a terrible loss at sea. This changes everything. I'm afraid I'll have to withdraw that check for another," he replied.

"Of course," the clergyman said. He understood and handed over the check. Then, to his surprise, the businessman wrote another check for \$1000. "Haven't you made a mistake?" the clergyman asked.

"No," the businessman answered, "that phone call was from my Heavenly Father saying, 'This is a trial of life, will you still trust in Me?'"

How true. Oh, but that we could have the strength of that man in our own times of trial. It is so vital that we learn while on earth to hold onto God through the good and the bad. May I speak from the heart just a moment? I cannot stress the spiritual aches I feel when I see God's people just give up. When tough times hit home, they just buckle under the pressure. Why? That's simple enough. It's because we try to heal ourselves. I am only 17 years old, and yet, I have been asked many times "Why do bad things happen to good people?" In Dr. Dobson's book, *When God Doesn't Make Sense*, it seems as if everyone wants an answer to the "awesome Why?" My answer is always and always will be the same...I don't know, but I know Someone who does. Wanna know how I know? Well, let's take a few glances at some before and after scenarios. Travel with me to Genesis 37. Here begins one of the first of "tough times" in the Word of God, the story of Joseph. He is hated and despised by his brothers. As the story grows, he is eventually sold to merchants traveling to Egypt by his brothers who proclaim to their father that Joseph was murdered by a wild animal. Think of Jacob, for a moment. The grief he had to have felt. The details of believing his son dead...But, God had His hand on Joseph. In the end, the tables were turned, and Joseph was made a powerful statesman of kingly status. All because he held to his faith in God.

Let's talk about Job. Now, THIS is a story of "tough times" if ever there were "tough times." Job had everything: wealth, reputation. Most importantly, he feared God and stayed away from evil. Then, for no reason it seemed, God allowed it all to be taken away: his family, his health, his reputation, his friends. Job endured things that few, if any, on earth in our times have ever witnessed. And Job still, he STILL, held onto God and never let go. He never even asked why. And how was he blessed? Well, God gave him twice what he lost: twice the wealth, twice the family, twice the happiness. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Did you see? God never once had taken his eyes off his people. Not once! Neither does He ever take them off us. Sadly, it is we who look away. It is we who quit fighting; it is we who falter. Life will never be a bed of roses, and thank goodness! For that opens so many doors for us to grow nearer to our Heavenly Father. I regret that I didn't have the faith of Job during my times of trouble. I was born to parents who had no love for me. My mother, for years, told me how sorry I was, and my father didn't know how to spell my name until I was old enough to tell him. And yes, I wanted to know why. But, then, I met Jesus, and today I stand before you to tell you there is hope! There is! Just keep on believing. Barbara Johnson, the author, once said, in essence, "Tough times are inevitable, but misery is optional." So true! I believe God allows bad things to happen because there is a blessing in store for us, and it draws us closer to Him. Use the trials of life as building blocks instead of stumbling stones. "How?" you ask--by taking them straight to God from the first blow and not waiting until you're bleeding and hurt.

No, I can't answer the question about good people in bad times, and I may not always be encouragement to a weary soul when tough times hit home. But, I can tell my Father, and He can heal you. Remember, we don't have to understand this world when we belong to the One who created it. We just follow Him and, one day, we will be glad we did.



On Friday, August 19, 1994, from 1-4 p.m., Don Gibson, Director of Lay Ministries for Texas Baptist Men, will lead a conference on the "Experiencing God Weekend." The conference will be held at Griffith Memorial Baptist Church, 5275 Terry Road, Jackson.

The conference is designed to train our State Renewal Coordinators to conduct the "Experiencing God Weekend" and to inform pastors and church leaders on how to make preparations for the weekend. Don will share some results and experiences of churches in Texas. They are in the third year of conducting the "Experiencing God Weekend," with exciting and phenomenal results.

During this conference, Jeanette Nichols, secretary to Don Gibson, will lead those interested in children's work for the "Experiencing God Weekend." Jeanette wrote the children's materials found in the preparation manual.

The "Experiencing God Weekend" is designed to introduce and encourage churches and individuals to become involved in Henry Blackaby's study, *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God*. The weekend experience, in no way, takes the place of the 13 week study. It primarily exposes each participant to the seven realities of how God works through His people to accomplish His purposes. Following the weekend, the goal is to have as many people in any given church go through the *Experiencing God* study as a whole body of believers.

Any interested person is invited to attend the 1-4 p.m. conference. For more information, contact the Brotherhood Department at (601) 968-3800. Following the conference, Don will lead Griffith church through an "Experiencing God Weekend." Invitations have been issued for participation in the weekend.



1994 GULFSHORE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY SUMMER STAFF

Pictured are members of the 1994 summer staff of Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. These young people, representing 20 campuses from across Mississippi, assisted in providing the services necessary for the operation of Mississippi Baptists' conference facility. Summer attendance will be approximately 7,000 persons for the 21 conferences sponsored by the various departments of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and approximately 1,500 CENTRIFUGE campers, according to Frank Simmons, assembly manager.

FRONT ROW: (left to right) JENNIFER GREENHAW, Amory, Ole Miss; ERICA NUNLEY, Indianola, MDCC; STEFFANIE HOWARD, Oak Grove, LA, Louisiana Tech; JENA ADCOCK, Pearl, HCC; MESHAY LEE, Carthage, MCC; HEATHER BOULER, Clinton, HCC; CHERRI HALLUM, Vardaman, DSU; STEPHANIE DAY, Crystal Springs, MUW; SHAREE WORSHAM, Elliot, WCC. **SECOND ROW:** JENNIFER MOAK, Wesson, CLCC; APRIL CLARK, Columbus, MSU; JENNY HARRINGTON, Amory, MC; DARLENE PATE, Chunky, USM; JENNY HAWKINS, Columbus, MUW; LAURA HOLT, Long Beach, MSU; ALICIA BOYD, Okolona, NECC; DEEDEE FORTENBERRY, Columbia, WCC; MELISSA ROBERSON, Batesville, MSU; MELISSA PEDEN, Ellisville, WCC; JOHNNIE SUE COOPER, Maben, UMC; JENNIFER COLLINS, Union, ECCC. **THIRD ROW:** SUZANNE MEDLIN, Baldwyn, NECC; CHRISTINE CAMBRON, Fort Sill, OK, Blue Mountain; SARA WATSON, Union, MSU; KAYSHA LITTLE, Long Beach, MGCCC; NANCIE EVERETT, Amory, MSU; RENEAE DOCKTER, Long Beach, MSU; SHELLEY COLEMAN, New Albany, NECC; PAMELA LENARD, Vaiden, MDCC; JANIE BAYLIS, New Orleans, LA, *HOUSEPARENT*. **FOURTH ROW:** ALEX CRAFT, Picayune, USM; JEFF COLBURN, Amory, ICC; CHRIS GRAY, Pearl, HCC; SERGIO TREJO, El Paso, TX, MGCCC; LEE GIVENS, Monticello, CLCC; CHRIS JOHNS, Mendenhall, USM; AARON DELL, Carriere, PRCC; ROBERT BAYLIS, New Orleans, LA, *HOUSE PARENT*. **FIFTH ROW:** CHASE MOORE, Meridian, MCC; TOM SLADE, Vancleave, *OPERATIONS ASSISTANT*; JASON HERRINGTON, Corinth, NECC; KEVIN NAGY, Biloxi, MGCCC; CHRIS SETTLE, Rienzi, NECC; TIM LEE, Biloxi, MGCCC; KARL COGHLAN, Pelahatchie, CLCC; LEE STAUTER, Gautier, MGCCC. **SIXTH ROW:** JEFF SIMMONS, Long Beach, Auburn; KELLY WHEAT, Prentiss, USM; KEVIN DOWNS, Baldwyn, MSU; MITCH WALKER, Mendenhall, HCC; DAVID BOYD, Gulfport, MC; BOB SULLENDER, Vicksburg, MC; STEVEN YOUNG, Gulfport, MC; FRANK SIMMONS, Long Beach, *MANAGER*. **NOT PICTURED:** ALISON PRATT, Corinth, UMC.

Cooperative Program Giving for 1994



Contributions	1994	1993
January	1,999,855	1,921,685
February	1,878,325	1,953,116
March	1,854,963	1,733,112
April	1,784,963	1,687,153
May	1,617,721	1,563,544
June	2,121,530	1,943,864
July	1,571,288	1,689,444

1993
1994



**SUNDAY,
AUGUST 21, 1994**

6:00 p.m.

will be in concert at

BROADMOOR BAPTIST CHURCH

Jim Futral is pastor at Broadmoor

Mississippi College begins new era with Howell Todd

A relationship initiated 144 years ago between Mississippi Baptists and Mississippi College will move into a new era on Saturday, Aug. 27, as students from throughout the state and the nation begin converging on the Clinton campus for the start of the 169th academic session.

Mississippi College, steeped in history and tradition that is intertwined with the Baptist denomination, will open its doors with new leadership and a renewed commitment on the part of faculty, staff, and students as it points toward the 21st century.

The new leader is Dr. Howell W. Todd, a Tennessee native with strong Baptist upbringing. He moved into the president's office in mid-July and his vision for the institution should bring a smile to

the face of all supporters of the college.

Todd is excited about his position of leadership at the nation's second oldest Baptist college. His desire is to share that excitement with as many folks as possible.

"Starting the new school year is exciting for me personally and I know it is an exciting time for the new collegians who will be coming in," voiced Todd. He hopes that the excitement will run rampant as administration, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and supporters join hands in preparation for a new era.

"Mississippi College has the most infectious environment that I have encountered in over 25 years in higher education. It seized me the first time I walked on this campus and I hope our students

will have the same feeling when they arrive on campus," said Todd, who joined the college after serving as executive director of the South Dakota Board of Regents in Pierre, S.D., for the past five years.

Since his announcement as president this past March, Todd has been upbeat and open concerning his outlook for the college.

"We have acknowledged some of our problems, but we must now begin concentrating on ensuring this institution's rightful place as a crown jewel in Baptist education circles and in national higher education circles," he said.

Voicing assurance to Baptists and others that the college's foundation is solid and that students are receiving a superb education, Todd said, "We value our Baptist heritage and tradition and we consider it more than a souvenir of the past."

He believes the college must adapt to the fast paced society that all have been thrust into. The means of addressing this more rapid lifestyle will determine the destiny of the institution.

"We cannot be shy and tentative. Neither can we cut loose from the moorings of common sense and change for sake of change. We are an institution with a strong heritage, a deep sense of trust by Mississippi Baptists, and we must never make changes which would compromise our mission. We must stay in touch with our roots and remember who we are," said the president.

Todd's philosophic outlook in

regards to the education process should please all Baptists and others who support the college. "I believe this institution's responsibility has become that of providing the foundation and the tools for the lifelong task of learning, instead of providing a finished product."

"Our goal is to see that our students receive a quality education, but at the same time receive an appreciation for values through the examples set by a dedicated Mississippi College faculty and staff," stated the president.

Admitting there will be challenges ahead as he provides guidance for the state's oldest institution of higher learning, Todd says, "We can seize the moment, declare that we are up to the challenges, and proceed with building on excellence in our educational programs and services which will position us well for the next century."

Todd and the new students who will be coming in are not the only ones getting excited about a new school year and a new era. Merchants throughout the city are getting geared up for the economic transfusion that takes place this time every year. They can hear the ring of cash registers as the students begin purchasing goods and services during their stay. City officials smile, too, for it means a boost in sales tax receipts.

Students arriving for the 169th academic session will be greeted by a number of physical changes on campus and more will likely take place before the school year is completed. Academic offices



Howell Todd

involving the areas of history, political science, paralegal, criminal justice, and foreign languages have all been relocated to Jennings Hall in time for the start of school.

In addition, work on a new classroom facility is well underway and could be in use by the time school starts. The building is located immediately east of Jennings Hall and was originally the campus cafeteria, but was later used as a women's gymnasium and more recently has been used for gymnastics and cheerleading instruction.

The building has been divided into six classrooms that will accommodate up to 300 students total.

The four smaller rooms will seat approximately 40 students each, while the two larger rooms are equipped for 70 students each.

Other location changes have involved the Office of Alumni Affairs, the Counseling and Career Development Center, the Purchasing Office, and the Credit Union Office. Service windows have been added to the Office of Business Affairs.

There will also be some new faces in administrative and teaching positions and an announcement of these additions will be made following approval by the board of trustees.

The fall semester officially gets underway on Saturday, Aug. 27, as freshmen report for resident hall assignments and general orientation.

The parent/student orientation session begins at 1 p.m. in Swor Auditorium of Nelson Hall where they will meet and hear from administrative personnel and representatives of the Student Government Association.

Academic advising will begin at 2:15 p.m. for the students while the parents are invited to the Hall of Fame Room of the B.C. Rogers Student Center for an information session.

A coke party for parents will be hosted by the president and the faculty at 2:45 p.m.

Dr. Todd will host an Open House for freshmen students on Sunday, Aug. 28, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at his home, Hendrick House.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

Your oldest institution of higher learning is ready for its 168th academic session. As Baptists, you can take pride in the fact that Mississippi College has been recognized as one of America's finest!!

Our goal is to continue to offer quality education intertwined with character building traits that have found us on the select Honor Roll of Character Building Colleges in the United States for the past five years.

Continue to send students our way. Fall registration will be held in the A.E. Wood Coliseum. Admission to registration will be based on classification and the first letter of the student's surname according to the following schedule.

MONDAY, AUGUST 23

4:30-7:30 p.m. Registration of students taking ALL night classes
Day students who are attending one NIGHT CLASS must register for the night class along with their day classes.
*Advisors located in their offices

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30

Seniors (4)

A-G 8:30-9:30 a.m.
H-P 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Q-Z 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Freshmen (1)

A-G 1:30-2:30 p.m.
H-P 2:30-3:30 p.m.
Q-Z 3:30-4:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31

Juniors (3)

A-G 8:30-9:30 a.m.
H-P 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Q-Z 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Sophomores (2)

A-G 1:30-2:15 p.m.
H-P 2:15-3:00 p.m.
Q-Z 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Graduate and Non-Degree Students

Graduate and Non-Degree students may register at any of the times listed above.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26

CLASSES BEGIN

REGISTRATION ON THE FOLLOWING DATES TO BE HELD IN THE B.C. ROGERS HALL OF FAME ROOM.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26

*4:30-6:30 p.m. Night Registration

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31

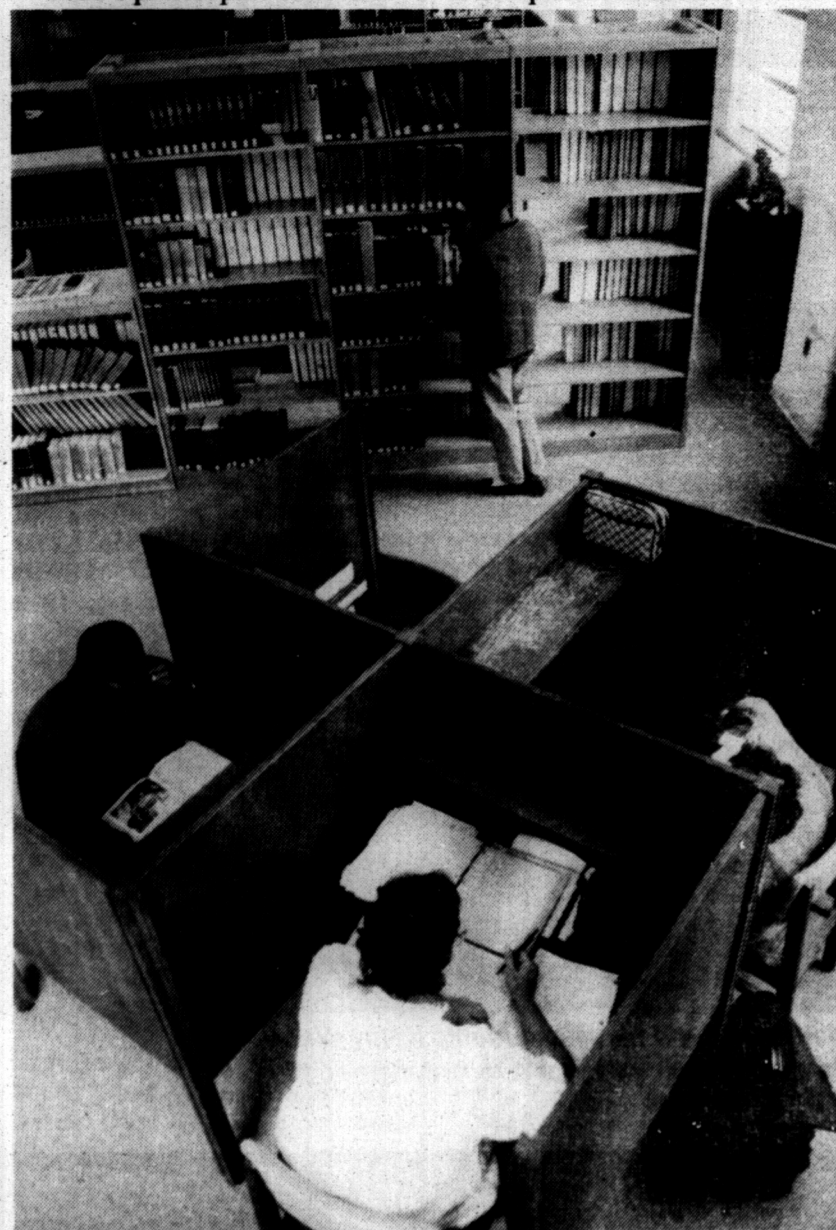
*4:30-6:30 p.m. Night Registration

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Leland Speed Library

William Carey College boasts two new programs for '94-95



Beth McNatt works on sculpture in an art studio at William Carey College.

William Carey College will begin the 1994-95 academic year with two new programs and several new members of the faculty and administration. The new programs are forensics and health related professions. Newly appointed to the academic staff are Cloyd Ezell, Benjamin Hawkins, C. David Channell, Barbara Ferguson, Thomas Huebner Jr., Carol Jones, and Kerry Lynn Kokaisel.

Intercollegiate competition in forensics is scheduled to begin in the 1994-95 school year on a limited basis and will gradually be increased into a program that the college anticipates will be nationally competitive. Thomas Huebner, who will direct the program, states that "Carey students will have the opportunity to develop skills in public speaking and oral interpretation, as well as two-person and Lincoln-Douglas debate." Huebner comes to Carey from the faculty of Southwest Baptist University in Missouri, which has a nationally ranked forensics program.

The health related professions curriculum is a baccalaureate degree program designed to provide further educational opportunities for people with two-year degrees or technical training in such areas as radiation technol-

gy and other health specialties. The program will be headed by B.J. Martin, who holds the doctor of philosophy degree from Rice University and is chairman of the department of biology.

Cloyd Ezell has been appointed as dean of the school of arts, humanities, and sciences. He completed the bachelor of science at Tulane University, the master

ulty is C. David Channell, who has been named to the rank of professor. He received the bachelor of business administration at University of Mississippi, the master of business administration at University of Southern Mississippi, and the doctor of business administration at Louisiana Tech University.

Named as an assistant professor of nursing, Barbara Ferguson completed the bachelor of science in nursing at Texas Christian University and the master of science in nursing at Louisiana State University Medical Center.

Thomas Huebner completed the bachelor of arts degree at Southwest Baptist University and the master of arts at University of Georgia. His appointment is as an instructor in theatre and communication.

Carol Jones will be an associate professor of psychology. She received the bachelor of arts in education, the master of education, and the doctor of philosophy at University of Mississippi.

Kerry Lynn Kokaisel's appointment is as an instructor of nursing. She completed the bachelor of science in nursing at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and the master of science in nursing at Louisiana State University Medical Center.

With the addition of intercollegiate forensics competition, "Carey students will have the opportunity to develop skills in public speaking...."

of science at University of Southern Mississippi, and the doctor of philosophy at Vanderbilt University. His area of specialty is mathematics.

Benjamin Hawkins, new dean of the school of business, received the bachelor of arts degree at Furman University. He completed both the master of arts and the doctor of philosophy degrees at University of Kentucky.

Also new to the business fac-

WILLIAM CAREY COLLEGE

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Assistant Professor Martha Morris, left, and nursing students Kathy Ware, Cherie Crowley and William Magee load supplies for a recent mission trip to Mexico.

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Names in the News



Antioch Church, Jasper Association, recently installed three new deacons. Pictured, from left, are Truman Phillips, chairman of deacons; Lester Gardner, Enon Church; Terrell Evans, newly ordained; M.L. McNeill, newly ordained; Windel Phillips, newly installed; and Jim Pender, pastor.

Carleton will speak at MC

Steve Carleton, executive director-treasurer of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, will deliver the commencement address to the summer graduation class at Mississippi College on Friday, Aug. 12.



The ceremonies, closing out the 168th academic session at the Baptist institution, are scheduled for 2 p.m. in the A. E. Wood Coliseum on campus.

There are 207 candidates for degrees, with 99 receiving one of the bachelor degrees, 106 the master's, and two the doctor of jurisprudence degree from the School of Law. The summer class swells to 883 the number of students receiving degrees from the college during the 12-month session.

The degrees will be conferred by Howell W. Todd, president of the college, with diplomas presented by the vice president or dean of the various schools.

VBS Results

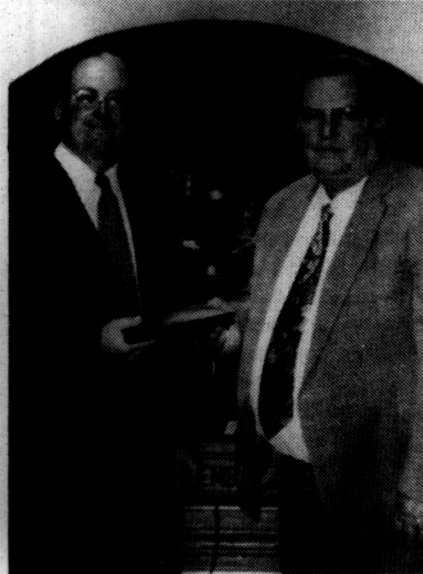
Fairview (Itawamba): average attendance, 122; five professions of faith; Gene O'Brian, pastor.

Rankin Association begins new men's retreat ministry

Crossroads Counseling Center, a ministry of the Rankin Association, offers a unique ministry for Christian men.

Groups of up to six men spend six days of personal renewal in retreat cabins near Bozeman, Mont. The wilderness experience includes fishing, horseback riding on mountain trails, and other outdoor activities.

The host for the retreats is Tommy Price, Southern Baptist pastor formerly of Searcy, Ark.



Shady Grove Church, Pontotoc Association, recently ordained Phillip Caples, left, to the gospel ministry. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Reed Caples. Leonard D. Howell is pastor.

Homecomings

Juniper Grove (Pearl River): Aug. 14; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch after services; Claude Howe, former interim pastor, guest speaker; Greg Rester, music; Phil Hanberry, pastor.

Hebron (Montgomery): Aug. 14; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11; lunch in fellowship hall, noon; "Common Ground" singers, afternoon; revival, 7:30 nightly; Everett Martin, evangelist; Tommie and Harvey Overstreet, music; Billy Little, pastor.

He has ministered in the Rocky Mountain region for more than a decade.

Fee includes lodging and transportation (excluding airfare to Bozeman), and meals.

Perry Sanderford, director and staff counselor, said Christian men today are neglecting getting away into a solitary place. Jesus knew that hurriedness drains vitality, and can even be deadly.

For more information, contact Sanderford at (601) 992-3768.

Mt. Zion Church, Mt. Olive, recently held a recognition service for Acteen Sandra Roberts with the theme, "Climb Every Mountain." She was honored as Queen With Scepter. Hilda Roberts is Acteen leader. Joel Eavenson is pastor.



Jimmy Smith is available for pulpit or music supply. He can be contacted at 1116 Hamm St., Tupelo, MS 38801 or call 601-842-5138.

James Young of Neshoba Association received the Associational Discipleship Training Gold Award for 1994 by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. This award is presented annually to associations which qualify by achieving outstanding work based on a standard list of items to be conducted during the prior 12 months.



FRANKFURT, Germany (BP) — A former Southern Baptist

missionary and leader of numerous volunteer crusades overseas has been named to coordinate evangelistic crusades in Western Europe during the next two years for the Foreign Mission Board. W.H. "Dub" Jackson and his wife Doris will work with Baptist leaders in the 11 countries of the region to plan outreach projects involving Southern Baptists and European churches.

William H. Berry, the oldest living emeritus missionary of the Foreign Mission Board, died of cancer July 30 in Memphis, the morning before his 100th birth-

day party. Berry, a missionary to Brazil for 41 years, turned 100 on July 27. He and his late wife Olga were appointed missionaries to Brazil in 1922. Since 1922 the Berry family has had a family member serving in Brazil as a missionary. The Berrys' son Edward and his wife Lois were appointed in 1953 and retired in 1985. Their daughter, Laura Spiegel, and her husband David have been missionaries there since 1979. David Spiegel's parents — Betty and Don Spiegel of Benton, Ark. — are retired Southern Baptist missionaries to Brazil.



Dock Walley was presented an outstanding achievement plaque in appreciation of 33 years of service as a Sunday School teacher in a special Father's Day service at New Hope Church, Leakesville. Walley began his ministry at Cedar Grove Church in 1961 where he taught a class for young boys. He joined New Hope Church as a charter member in 1966 and began teaching adults. Pictured, from left, are Donald Walley, Dock Walley, David Scoggins, and Anthony Smith. As young boys, the other three men were enrolled in Dock Walley's Sunday School class at Cedar Grove Church.

Revival Dates

Oakland, Corinth: Aug. 14; Day of Victory Crusade; 8:30 and 11 a.m.; 7 p.m., concert with the Alan Celoria Family Singers; Randy Bostick, pastor.

Cornersville, Potts Camp: Aug. 14-19; 7 each night; Floyd Lamb, Walnut, evangelist; Mark Garrett, New Albany, music; Samuel L. Cox, pastor.

Clear Springs, Coffeeville: Aug. 14-19; services, 7:30 p.m.; Larry McDaniel, Boyle, evangelist; John Simpson, Coffeeville, music; Lonnie Waller, pastor.

Mt. Carmel (Smith): Aug. 14-19; services, 7 p.m.; Sunday, lunch followed by afternoon services; Roger Lee, Holly Grove Church, D'Lo, evangelist; Charley Cook, pastor.

First, Sumrall: Aug. 14-17; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7:30 p.m.; Billy R. Thomas, Lafayette, La., evangelist; Hubert Greer, Brookhaven, music; Glenn Davis, pastor.

Pilgrim's Rest, Ethel: Aug. 14-17; Sunday, Gideon Appreciation Day, 11 a.m., covered dish lunch, and 7 p.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Richardson, Kosciusko, evangelist; Ronnie and Suzanne Ables,

music; Walter Hines, pastor.

Sebastopol (Scott): Aug. 12-14; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Lupe Rando, evangelist, and Janie Rando, music, both of Floydada, Texas; David Sartin, pastor.

Midway, Newton: Aug. 14-18; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 p.m.; Jimmy McDill, Newton, evangelist; Karen Hutto, Montrose, Jasper, music; Wayne Miley, pastor.

Neely (Greene): Aug. 21-26; Sunday, services, 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds, 1:30 p.m. service; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Greg Clemts, pastor, Morgan Chapel, evangelist; Ronnie Clemts, Hattiesburg, music; Belinda Lewis, New Augusta, pianist; Charles C. Garner, pastor.

Friendship, Aberdeen: Aug.

Campers on Mission to meet

The 1994 Campers on Mission (COM) rally will take place Aug. 11-14 at the Greenwood Civic Center.

Features of the weekend include election of officers; messages by John Gibson, pastor of First Church, Greenwood, and by COM Chaplain G.A. McGoy; plus

28-Sept. 1; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Tommy Cunningham, West Memphis, Ark., evangelist; Billy Nelson, Derma, music; Todd Bowen, pastor.

Hudson-Krohn Road, Biloxi: Aug. 14-19; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Wayne Crenshaw, Pelahatchie, evangelist; Larry Tapp, Ocean Springs, music; Robert Carlisle, pastor.

Concord (Choctaw): Aug. 14, homecoming, 9:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. with Bob Moore, Stockbridge, Ga., guest speaker; Aug. 15-19, revival, 7:30 nightly. Andrea Dobson, Louisville, evangelist.

Salem, Raymond: Aug. 14-17; Sunday, homecoming, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., revival, 7 p.m.; Louis Smith, Jackson, evangelist; Bill Bacon, Clinton, music; Daniel Hall, pastor.

devotionals by M.L. Summers and by Sam Dees.

A workshop for the next national rally will take place on Saturday.

The program begins with a tour of the Flowood Plantation at 2:30 on Thursday, and concludes after McCoy's message on Sunday.

Just for the Record



"Regal Radiance" was the theme for the recent Acteens Recognition Service held by **New Zion Church, Crystal Springs**. All of the Acteens were crowned queen; Kandi Patterson also was awarded a scepter. Pictured, left to right, are: Sharon Brewer,

leader, Valerie Brewer, Shannon Lackey, Tracey Hisaw, Kandi Patterson, Mandy McLendon, Missy Smith, Bethany Turnbo, and Patricia Patterson, leader. Leroy J. Brewer is pastor.



Twelve children and youths from **Puckett Church, Puckett**, participated in the church's Bible Drill program. All advanced to the state level, receiving excellent and superior ratings. Pictured are, left to right: (front row) Boone Purser, Dana Spong, Tiffany Means, Shane Vanderford; (second row) Andrea Means, Shae Ward, Ashley Murphy, Hannah Means, Justin Means; (third row) Hayes Patrick, Lacosta Patrick, and Richie Means. Leaders are Michael and Hilda Means, children, and Sandra Calhoun and Lynda Means, youth. Barry Ward is pastor.

Mark Thrash, minister of single adults and evangelism at **Shandon Church, Columbia, S.C.**, will be keynote speaker for a divorce recovery seminar at **Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, Aug. 13-14**. Topics will include: beginning again, communication, and limits and boundaries.



Other speakers **Thrash** will be Steve Headrick, Julie Patterson, Michael Ratliff, Howard Stroud, and Charlie Ray. Cost is \$10 per person, including meals. For more information, call Betty Regal at (601) 544-5444.

DeSoto Church, Clarke County, will host the Mississippi Brotherhood's Disaster Relief Unit for viewing, Aug. 13 from 2-4 p.m.

Missionary News

David and Lynda Bodenheimer, Baptist representatives to Eastern Europe, are in the States (address: Rt. 1, Box 26, Belden, MS 38826). Born in North Carolina, he considers Signal Mountain, Tenn., his hometown. She is the former Lynda Sneed of Tupelo.

Wayne and Florence Frederick, missionaries to France, are in the States (address: 402 Royal St., Edwards, MS 39066). He was born in Shannon. The former Florence Blush, she was born in New Orleans, and grew up in Edwards.

Algie and Emily Green, missionaries to Argentina, are on the field (address: Bolanos 141, 1407 Buenos Aires, Argentina). He is a native of Laurel. The former Emily Gurley, she was born in New Jersey and considers Iuka her hometown.

Thomas and Bonnie Hearon, missionaries to Brazil, are on the field (address: Caixa Postal 100.581, 24001-970 Niteroi, RJ,

Brazil). He was born in New Orleans, and considers Jackson his hometown. A native of Texas, she is the former Bonnie Ernst.

Vic and Sharon Johnston, missionaries to Brazil, are on the field (address: Caixa Postal 375, 64001-970 Teresina, PI, Brazil). He is a native of McComb. The former Sharon Blackwell, she was born in Tylertown, and considers Kosciusko her hometown.

Tony and Kathy Latham, missionaries to the Philippines, are on the field, (address: P.O. Box 80327, Davao City, Philippines 8000). Both are native of Mississippi. He is from Jackson, and she is the former Kathy Jennings of Kosciusko.

John and Elizabeth Merritt, Baptist representatives to Germany, are on the field (address: Elsa Brandstroem 9, 65203 Wiesbaden, Germany). He is a native of Hattiesburg. The former Elizabeth Pope, she was born in Mobile, Ala., and lived in Chocora.

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Mr. and Mrs. Homer Fleming (seated, right to left) recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with members of their Sunday School class from **Lawn Haven Church, Laurel**. The couple now resides in Gautier with their daughter, Jo Thomas. The Flemings are long-time members of the Laurel congregation.

AFA lists top TV sponsors of pro-homosexual programs

TUPELO — Procter & Gamble is the leading sponsor of pro-homosexual programs on television, according to American Family Association. AFA said that based on programs monitored during the first six months of 1994, there was not a single program which depicted homosexuality in a negative manner.

Other companies listed in the top ten include PepsiCo, Philip Morris, McDonald's, AT&T, Nestle, Unilever, General Motors, Ford, and Walt Disney.

"There has been a proliferation of programs presenting homosexuality as a normal, acceptable, alternative lifestyle," said AFA president Donald E. Wildmon. "The companies identified in the report have agreed with the movers and shakers in Hollywood and at the networks that the public's attitude toward homosexuality must be reshaped. One could accurately say that the radical homosexual community now has total control of Hollywood and the networks on this issue," Wildmon said.

The Lichter/Rothman Report

done in the early 1980's showed that one 5% of TV elite strongly felt that homosexuality is morally wrong and that "TV should be a major force for social reform."

The report followed an announcement by CBS that Harvey Fierstein, a homosexual, would play a homosexual character in a new series called *Daddy's Girls*, premiering in August.

A copy of the report can be obtained by writing AFA, Tupelo, MS 38803.

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Uniform Accept God's guidance



By Richard Bradley
Numbers 13, 14

As they approached Canaan, Moses sent 12 spies, one for each of the 12 tribes of Israel, to reconnoiter the promised land. Their report was both encouraging and disturbing. As far as the land's ability to sustain God's people was concerned, it was truly bountiful. However, there was both opportunity and challenge in the land. Men of great stature who lived in fortified cities represented no small obstacle for God's people. Ten of the spies painted a picture of gloom and despair. Two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, painted a realistic picture but did not forget to include the promised intervention of God in their assessment of the situation. The people rejected the minority report and accepted the majority opinion that God's people were facing an impossible situation.

No one ever said it would be easy (13:25-28). There is a prevailing philosophy in many Christian circles today that if we are right with God, the Lord will keep us from all harm and will protect us from the troubles of life. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, there is much evidence from God's Word that just the opposite is true. When God's people are faithful they are surrounded by trouble. This is why Canaan, except in certain gospel hymns, has never been a good type of heaven. When they got to the promised land, God's people found imposing, if not impossible, obstacles which would have to be overcome if their inheritance was to be realized.

Caleb's response of faith (13:28, 30-31). Caleb's response of faith represents a stirring challenge to God's people today to maintain a strong faith. Caleb insisted that the Hebrews were able to take the land. How could he maintain such an insistence? It was simple. Caleb was resting on God's promises. God had promised his people that he would assist them in their struggles and that he would never forget them. Caleb was willing to take God at his word, however, the majority of the spies and the people were not.

When we say, "We can do it!" that statement must be based on something. Well, blind trust in ourselves will take us only as far as brawn and intellect can go. On the other hand, trusting the promises of God will take us as far as God can go and that is all the way to the promised land! To admonish one to "go with God" is simply good advice.

Everyone will not always share our vision (14:6-10a). Not only did the people reject Joshua and Caleb's minority report, they wanted to stone them for their trouble. There will always be those who will not be able to separate our position from us personally. Rather than attacking your position, they just may choose to attack you instead.

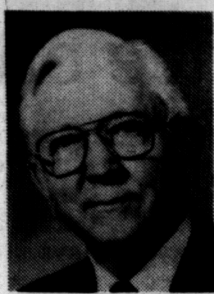
What do we do in such cases? We do what Joshua and Caleb did. As honestly as we know how, we must base our report on the facts as we know them, include the promises of God, and then leave the rest to God. Some will throw rocks, but some will believe and choose to follow God's leadership. As much as is possible, we must separate ourselves from the situation. When people obviously reject the will of God, they are not rejecting us, they are rejecting God who would rule over them. Do your best, as did Joshua and Caleb, and then simply let go and let God do the rest. If people refuse to be led by God they will not submit to your leadership even though you are!

The end result of faithlessness (14:28-30). When the Hebrews heard the report of the spies they moaned that they had come out into the wilderness merely to perish. We must always be careful what we say because what we say just might come true. God took his people at their word. All of the people 20 years of age and older, except Joshua and Caleb, would indeed perish in the wilderness. However, Joshua and Caleb would be permitted to go into the promised land and claim their inheritance.

God's hand will be upon us one way or the other. He will either punish our faithlessness or reward our faith. He would rather reward our faith. This scene represents a sobering pronouncement upon faithlessness and a stirring challenge to take God at his word. "Let go and let God" is pretty good advice. If it worked for Joshua and Caleb it will surely work for us because the Lord never changes and his promises will always have the ring of truth.

Bradley is pastor, Handsboro Church, Gulfport.

Bible Book Wisdom's source, worth



By Raymond Kolb
Proverbs 1:1 — 9:18

What is a proverb? Though the term translated as "proverb" has a root meaning of "to be like," its biblical usage is much broader and may be thought of as "a wise saying" of any form. The book, Proverbs, is a part of the wisdom literature of the Old Testament. There seem to be two different meanings of wisdom in different passages of this book. The first nine chapters present wisdom as personified. It is not identical with the Lord but was created by him before the creation of the universe (8:22-31). Yet, it appears using the personal pronoun "I." As such, wisdom preaches, teaches, instructs, and commands. Over and over wisdom speaks to human beings as "my son." The greater part of the rest of the book sees wisdom as practical religion or uprightness.

What is the book of Proverbs all about? The first seven verses of Chapter 1 answer this question and serve as an excellent introduction to the entire book. Note carefully the various terms in verses 2-6 for an explanation of the purpose of the book.

The beginning of knowledge (1:7). There must be a true source of wisdom and there must be a starting point for acquiring it. By faith we accept God as the source. It follows naturally, then, that a right relationship to him is essential to acquiring that wisdom. "The fear of the Lord" may be understood as a deep reverence for God and a genuine, worshipful, obedient attitude toward him. If we walk with him, talk with him, and listen to him, he will teach us that which we need to know. "Beginning" as used here may refer not only to the starting point, but also to the ultimate purpose and true value of wisdom.

The latter part of verse 7 is in contrast to the first part. It speaks of fools who have no interest in genuine wisdom and consequently do not receive it. "Fools," as used here, refers to those who are morally deficient, dull, and ignorant. They do not care to receive wisdom from God nor man.

Wisdom's rewards (3:1-18a). Chapter 3 points out many desirable consequences of a life lived in "the fear of the Lord." Verse 1 calls on each person to remember the teachings. (In this case the Torah, or the Law, which is only a part of our Old Testament, but which could be their Bible at that time. Much of our Bible was written later.) Not only were they to remember the teachings but also to make a practice of obeying them. Verse 2 mentions a long and prosperous life as a consequence of remembering and obeying God's commandments. Verses 3 and 4 tell us that a good name, or a good reputation, in the sight of both God and man is another result of being faithful and obedient to God's commands.

Verses 4 and 5 are among those most often memorized by Christians today. To trust in the Lord is far more than just believing that he exists and that he is powerful. It is a confidence that leads one to risk all in obedience to him, having the assurance that he will do all he has promised. Our own understanding, ideas, hunches, intuition, or even reasoning, should never be allowed to lead us to go against his teachings or against the leadership of his Spirit. If I really trust him he will clear the path ahead. I must be ready to follow wherever and however he leads.

Verses 9 and 10 are a strong call to stewardship of material things, based on trust in God. Verses 11 and 12 call on those who trust God to accept whatever discipline he may send. He disciplines his children because he loves them. How has this applied to you?

Many other important lessons are to be found in our complete text for today, Proverbs 1:1-9:18. Among them is the extreme importance for sexual purity for all people of all ages. Many lives and homes are damaged or destroyed because of selfish choices rather than trust in, and obedience to, God. Another important warning is against just plain laziness. "Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!"

Verses 8:35-56 present an appeal to get wisdom. Wisdom can be received. It can be taught and learned. It can be applied with wonderful results. It can be ignored with terrible consequences. Let's apply the wisdom we now have by turning to the true source for more wisdom.

Kolb is a retired missionary living in Clinton.

Life and Work Guidelines for giving



By Ruth Allen
2 Corinthians 8

Associated Press carried this story a few weeks ago: If there is a highway to heaven, George Swanson may get to the Pearly Gates in style; he was buried in his white Corvette. Swanson's ashes were placed in the driver's seat, two driving caps on the back seat, red roses on the hood, only 27,000 miles on the odometer, and the 10-year-old car was lowered into the grave as 50 mourners looked on.

He left this world with other dear possessions — a lap quilt stitched by women at his church, a love note from his wife, and his favorite Englebert Humperdinck tape in the cassette player with the song "Release Me" cued up and ready to play. Following the funeral a reception was held; and his widow Caroline said, "George always said he lived a fabulous life, and he went out in fabulous style. You have a lot of people saying they want to take it with them; he took it with him."

George Swanson and his wife labored under a delusion which impairs the thinking of many people. He evidently never realized that he left it all! George had made the mistake of putting his trust in tangible things. To some it would seem he had everything, but actually he had nothing — a car he could not drive, roses he could not smell, and a tape he could not hear. Jesus said, "Life does not consist in the abundance of things." He also taught about the possibility of laying up treasures in heaven where we can reclaim them some day. We cannot take our treasures with us, but we can send them on ahead in other forms, such as what we give in the name of the Lord.

Jesus, our Lord, talked about giving more often than any other subject. He did so because our attitude toward giving is a reflection of what we actually are in our hearts. H.H. Hobbs has stated, "Only when we discover the grace of giving do we experience the joy of living." Paul has outlined guidelines for giving according to the heart of God.

Give as if it were a privilege, not an obligation. The story is told of a soldier who had his arm shot off in World War I. Someone expressed sorrow that the man had lost his arm. "I didn't lose it," he said. "I gave it." What a glorious thing if Christians could have such a sentiment about what they do for and give to Christ! What a transformation would take place in our service and mission outreach if we could consider giving as a blessed privilege! I am reminded of the rich young ruler's encounter with Jesus and what he lost because he failed to grasp the privilege of giving. He lost everything!

Give yourself first to Christ. The churches at Macedonia were willing to go beyond their ability to give because of a deep love for Jesus. A stylish and expensively dressed woman said to her minister, "Pastor, did you see the gorgeous diamond I got for a Christmas present?"

"Yes," answered the pastor, "I saw it when you gave your meager gift to the mission offering."

The pastor just happened to see; God always sees. Our rule should be — do I give as unto the crucified hand of Christ? Our giving is directly proportionate to our love for Jesus.

Excel in the grace of giving. Daniel Webster, the great American statesman, was asked what was the greatest thought that ever entered his mind. After a moment's meditation, the great man replied, "The thought of my personal accountability to God." What a different world this would be if we all kept that thought before us! We must strive to excel in all of God's graces, but especially the grace of giving, for it reflects the heart of God.

Follow the example of Jesus in giving. He was rich, yet became poor that you and I might become the richest persons in the world. Should not we, the recipients of such gracious giving, be willing to follow our Lord's example?

Some years ago an unknown author penned these words: "Some pay their dues when due; Some, when overdue; Some never do; How do you do?" If you are not following God's guidelines for giving, pray for the grace of giving and begin today to know the joy of living.

Allen lives in Jackson.

capsules

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS JOIN OTHERS WORKING IN RWANDA RELIEF EFFORTS: RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptists hope to deliver 10 trailer-size, gas-powered water purification machines to Goma, Zaire, before volunteers start arriving in mid-August at the cholera-riddled death camps of Rwandan refugees. The machines will pump and purify water 24 hours a day for as long as they are needed in camps around Goma, and might be moved into Rwanda if the wave of 2 to 3 million refugees fleeing their homeland decides to turn back. Southern Baptist officials hope to secure space for the machines on U.S. military flights. At least 20 Southern Baptist volunteers trained to operate them plan to arrive Aug. 14. Teams of Southern Baptist doctors and nurses also will go to provide medical help. With their initial \$250,000 outlay, Southern Baptists join a long list of Christian and relief agencies seeking to heal at least some of the hurt in sprawling refugee camps, where Hutu bodies are heaped in fields that have become mass graveyards.

GREGORY ENTERS 2ND MARRIAGE, ACCORDING TO BOOK PUBLISHER: FORT WORTH (BP) — Joel Gregory, former pastor of First Church in Dallas, and Sherry Elaine Lemon were married July 30, according to a news release from The Summit Group of Fort Worth, Texas, publisher of Gregory's upcoming book, *Too Great a Temptation: The Seductive Power of America's Super Church*. The private ceremony, attended by 80 guests, marked the second marriage for Gregory, 46, and Lemon, 41, the news release stated. Gregory, who was divorced from his wife of 26 years, Linda, last December, abruptly resigned at First Church in Dallas in 1992 in conflict over the transition from longtime senior pastor W.A. Criswell.

EPISCOPAL BISHOPS BLESS UNIONS, BUT NOT ORDINATION, OF GAYS: NEW YORK (ABP) — The nation's Episcopal bishops have issued a statement that blesses lifelong, committed, and faithful relationships between homosexuals but disapproves of ordaining gays to the ministry, Associated Press reported July 27. A final draft of a pastoral letter from leaders of the 2.5-million-member denomination said sexual relationships "reach their fullest potential for good and minimize their capacity for evil when in the context of chaste, faithful, and committed lifelong unions between mature adults." "There are those who believe," the letter continued, "this is as true for homosexual as for heterosexual relationships and that such relationships need and should receive the pastoral care of the church." Ordination, however, is a different matter, the bishops said, recommending that the church ordain only "persons we believe to be a wholesome example to their people, according to the standards and norms set forth by the church's teaching."



Inner city Centrifuge camps

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Beverly Sonnier (standing), a graduate student at Howard University School of Divinity near Washington, D.C., debriefs participants of a recreation activity at an inner-city Centrifuge camp in St. Louis, Mo. A traveling team of 12 staffers and two directors led the first Centrifuge camps in inner cities this summer. The staffers began their journey June 13 with a camp in Louisville and expect to complete their travels with a camp in Los Angeles Aug. 19. (BP photo by Terry Lackey)

Ole Miss BSU hosts ministers' Conference on Campus Outreach

UNIVERSITY — Baptist Student Union (BSU) directors from universities in six states exchanged ideas at a recent conference held at the University of Mississippi to focus on the direction of college ministries.

"This kind of meeting serves a number of purposes. It's a chance for us to fellowship, to exchange ideas, and to discuss dealing with problems we all face," said Keith Cating, director of the Ole Miss BSU, which hosted the group.

Much of the emphasis of the conference focused on the continued viability of BSU and how to more effectively reach students in a rapidly changing environment.

In addition to fostering an exchange of ideas, the gathering of campus ministers provided an opportunity for fellowship and spiritual nurturing.

Discussions included topics such as maintaining spiritual growth as a leader, expanding opportunities for student mission efforts, making large group meetings more interesting, conducting effective fund raising, and training students to be Christian leaders.

"Working with college students is intensely rewarding because they are at a critical point in their lives and are making big decisions. If you challenge them, they respond very enthusiastically. They will give their heart and life to what they believe. That's why it's important to expose them to new opportunities to experience the rewards of serving Christ, whether it's on the mission field or in their career choice," said Arliss Dickerson, BSU director for Arkansas State University.

The University's location in Oxford was a fitting selection as the site for this meeting, according to W.F. Howard, retired state director of student ministries in Texas and adjunct professor of student work at Southwestern Seminary. The city is the hometown of the late Frank Hartwell Leavell, the architect of BSU

efforts on a national level.

Leavell, one of nine sons, was born in 1884 to Oxford residents George and Cora Leavell. All nine boys attended Ole Miss, where there was at least one Leavell at the University for 17 years.

According to Howard, the Leavells built a heritage of Christian service. In addition to Frank Leavell's 27 years of service as the denomination's director of student ministries (until his death in 1949), two of his brothers became pastors.

Another served as a seminary president and one as a pioneer of religious education at the Baptist Sunday School Board. Two others were missionaries to China. Leavell's niece, Marian, also served as the Ole Miss BSU director from 1931 to 1967.

In addition to Cating, Dickerson, and Howard, those attending

the conference included Bill Henry of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Scott Carlin of the University of Southern Louisiana, Ken Watkins of Mississippi State University, Linda Osborne of Arkansas State University, David McKinney of the University of Arkansas, Shawn Shannon of Baylor University, Mike Young of Louisiana College, Steve Masters of Louisiana State University, Lloyd Lunceford and Michael Ball of the University of Southern Mississippi, Bruce Venable of Northeast Louisiana University, Brenda Sanders of Samford University, John Heath of Southeast Oklahoma State University, Jim Morrison of Southwest Oklahoma University, Bill Collins of Northwest Louisiana State University, Debbie Wallace of Ole Miss and Tom Logue, retired Arkansas state director of student min-

Medical evacuation brings injured N.C. volunteer home

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (BP) — Southern Baptist volunteer Paul Sutherland, 66, still in a coma from a brain contusion sustained July 20, was evacuated Aug. 6 from Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C.

Sutherland, from Sanford, N.C., suffered severe head wounds in a fall from a ladder while painting the library of the International Baptist Theological Seminary there.

Sutherland traveled from Buenos Aires to Miami on a Chilean airliner the night of Aug. 6. A medical escort accompanied him, said Sutherland's daughter, Vivien Hagler, in a telephone interview from her home in Charlotte, N.C.

Sutherland underwent two surgeries in less than 24 hours on July 21. One was to remove a large blood clot from the right side of his brain, the other in part to

relieve pressure caused by swelling around the brain. He has been breathing without the aid of a respirator since July 23.

However, because of fluid buildup in his lungs, physicians performed a tracheotomy Aug. 1 to help him breathe more easily.

Hagler said she is praying for the Duke neurosurgeon who will treat her father.

"If he (the doctor) isn't a Christian, and my dad can wake up and talk, then that's what he's going to hear (Sutherland's testimony) from dad. There's no doubt about it."

Sutherland, a member of Cool Springs Church in Sanford, has gone on many mission trips in the United States and overseas through the Foreign Mission Board.

"He's always really excited when he comes back, because he gets as much out of it personally" as he puts into it, said his daughter.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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HVS GDWFH CT HVS ZCFR WG IDCB AS,
PSQOIGS VS VOHV OBCWBHSR AS HC DFSOQV
HVS UCGDSZ HC HVS DCCF; VS VOHV GSBH AS
HC VSOZ HVS PFCYSBVSOFHSR, HC DFSOQV
RSZWJSFOBQS HC HVS QODHWJSG, OBR FSQCJSF-
WBU CT GWUVH HC HVS PZWBR, HC GSH OH
ZWPSFHM HVSA HVOH OFS PFIWGSF,

ZIYS TCIF: SWUVHSSB

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Four: Eleven.

Baptist Record

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